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Inter-Arab Affairs

Speeches Mark 1st Anniversary of ACC Founding

Iraq's Ramadan Delivers Address

JN1602132290 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 16, INA—Under patronage of President Saddam Husayn chairman of the supreme committee of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) 1st session, a grand celebration has been held in Baghdad this morning on the first anniversary of founding the ACC which groups Iraq Republic, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Egypt and Yemen Arab Republic.

President Saddam Husayn deputized Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan member of the Revolution Command Council, first deputy premier to attend the celebration that has been held at the conference palace.

The representative of President Saddam Husayn, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan (RCC) member, first deputy premier, delivered a speech at the outset of which he conveyed greetings of President Saddam Husayn to the participants in the celebration.

Mr. Ramadan said in his speech that on February 16, 1989 President Saddam Husayn, King Husayn Ibn-Talal, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih announced the birth of the ACC between Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and Yemen Arab Republic, crowning attitudes and wills united by oneness of the national joint destiny and embodying the urgent need for comprehensive cooperation and quadripartite economic integration consolidating Arabs march towards comprehensive unity.

The president's representative added in his address that Baghdad first summit has successfully culminated long efforts of bilateral cooperation between leaders of the four Arab countries and clearly reflected a joint vision of the dangers threatening the Arab national security which had reached its summit in the Iranian aggression against Iraq, countries of the Arab Gulf and the Arab nation as a whole.

A quick review of objectives of the ACC and achievements of the first year of its march are enough to confirm comprehensiveness of the fields in which the Arab leaders had agreed on achieving coordination, cooperation, integration and solidarity including the political side mentioned in the first article of the ACC founding agreement.

The first year since the founding of the ACC has been characterised by great activity and enthusiasm whose result came rich and fruitful. [sentence as received]

The agreements signed at the two summits of Alexandria and Sanaa and those to be signed at Amman summit have covered all fields of cooperation and joint action, and successive meetings were held by the ministerial body, the ministers and technical persons throughout the past year.

The establishment of the ACC did not emerge from mentality of negative blocs and axes and did not come as an alternative to bilateral cooperation between its member states and the other Arab countries. Also, the Council's aims and objectives are completely in harmony with the Arab League Charter specially its 9th article.

The ACC's General Secretariat has reached an agreement of coordination and cooperation with the League's general secretariat last September, and the ACC is seriously looking forward to achieving coordination and cooperation between the other two Arab groupings, i.e. the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Arab Maghreb Union (AMU).

The representative of President Saddam Husayn also said "as we are celebrating the first anniversary of the founding of the ACC on the eve of meeting by the Supreme Committee in Amman at the end of this month, we express our full confidence that the second year of the Council will be full of more accomplishments and gains."

The agreements signed during the first year will be put into effect through sincerity and follow-up and through continuity of guidance and patronage of our leaders.

Saddam Husayn Addresses Officials

JN1902123490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Feb (INA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's address to the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] representatives attending the main celebrations marking the first anniversary of the ACC on 16 February. The text of President Saddam Husayn's address is as follows:

The president: Dr. Nammar, I hope all is well in your department.

Dr. Hilmi Nammar [ACC secretary general]: Yes, praised be God. Of course, we derive strength from the will of the leaders. So far, we have established the General Secretariat's various agencies.

The president addresses Dr. Nammar: Your responsibility will grow with the increase in the number of the agreements signed by the ACC countries since these agreements will need following up. In all of our departments in the ACC, we will need someone to remind us from time to time of any delay in any subject and also to propose how to research and carry out certain projects. This is because very often we inadvertently forget the details in the midst of our daily preoccupations. These details are more important than our simple daily work.

So, the follow-up process is your concern. When we say your concern, we do not mean to abandon our tasks. Everyone of us is dutybound to give his attention to these details and to cooperate with his brothers in furthering them.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid [foreign minister of Egypt]: Today's world is a world of major blocs.

The president: The biggest countries in the world in terms of strength rather than population are the United States and the Soviet Union. Yet these two superpowers belong to blocs. They realised that their individual efforts are not adequate without the support of an alliance with other countries based on common objectives. Thus, the Soviet Union belongs to the Warsaw Pact and COMECON and the United States belongs to NATO and the cooperation agreements joining its members.

The changes in the policies of the Soviet Union and the East European countries will, on one hand, assist Europe to pursue its unity measures and on the other will place obstacles before European unity. When Europe tried to act as a united entity, the Soviet Union was within the Warsaw Pact and COMECON, and the United States, in view of the existence of NATO did not express any anxiety toward this unity. It has now become evident, however, that the Warsaw Pact and NATO have no future. The United States, consequently, will remain alone, and likewise the Soviet Union. Each will lose some of its strength, not just the Soviet Union. Both will lose some of their strength, first, as a result of the loss of the confrontation factor created by the struggle over who should play the leading role in the world; and second, because they will lack allies when they find themselves outside their traditional blocs. This state of affairs will force the United States and the Soviet Union to work together to place obstacles on the road to European unity. The new factor concerning Germany's reunificatiion may also weaken European unity as a result of the apprehensions some European countries may express on German unity. It is obvious, however, that the Europeans are mature enough not to adopt unilateral steps and West German statements on the reunification of the two Germanys are worded in a way that reassure both Europe and the Soviet Union.

It has become evident that the German people want unity. This is something natural and has not come as a surprise to anyone. It is natural for a country to return to its normal state of affairs after the reasons for which it was divided in the form of spoils of war no longer exist.

The president then addressed the representative of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]: How do the brothers in the Gulf view U.S. statements that the United States will remain in the Gulf, although when it first arrived in the Gulf the United States gave as reason for its presence in the Gulf that it had come to protect Kuwait against a real Iranian attack and not a fabricated one, an attack which was imminent against Kuwait? But now that the specter of aggression has been removed, U.S. statements should indicate that they came on a particular mission and that they will withdraw when things return to normal. We now notice that the United States makes many statements that it is staying. This makes us wonder what the U.S. stand will be towards ending the war. Is it truly serious in ending the war between Iraq and Iran? If it states that it will stay in the Gulf, then this continued presence needs some cover no matter how powerful the United States is.

We are not pleased with the United States' repeated statements about its continued presence in the region. When the United States established its presence, there was a reason for this which supposedly should have become weaker and weaker with time. The reason was the real fear of the Soviet Union and its influence, not to mention the ongoing war and the threats posed to the Gulf countries, particularly to Kuwait. These threats were real. We notice, however, that while these two factors become less important, U.S. statements affirming that it is staying in the Gulf increase.

GCC representative Sayf Ibn-Hayil al-'Askari said: They even surprised officials in the Gulf who did not expect such statements which cannot be justified. Some Gulf officials have asked the United States to clarify these statements. However, we do not know what was the U.S. reply.

The president: If our brothers in the Arabian Gulf are aware to this degree, this is good and excellent, because the subject in fact is something serious. For, on the one hand, the Soviet Union is concerned with its own internal affairs, and, on the other hand, our fighting with Iran has come to a stop at all levels. We were waiting for the United States to say that it was withdrawing and that if something came up in line with the reasons that justified its presence in the Gulf, it would come back. Had this occurred, an American statement of this sort would have been understandable. But when the Soviet Union is involved with its own internal affairs, the war has ended, no direct threat exists, and the United States, especially at this time, is still repeating that it will stay, then this is something that warrants attention.

Dr. Hilmi Nammar: I believe these countries do not want to see stability in the region. This is evident with the encouragement of Jewish emigration. The Americans have closed the door to make the Soviet Jews head for Israel.

The president: What all of us Arabs must do in the next five years, including 1990, is to be particularly watchful, because we feel that the world community is always capable of creating a certain degree of balance in its general political environment. But when taken by surprise by certain events, such as developments in the Soviet Union, the world community will, in our opinion, need no more than five years to regain a certain degree of balance vis-a-vis the United States. Moreover, the Arabs play a considerable role in this regard.

We Arabs, Iraqis included, have a habit of either underrating or overrating our power. I believe that through cooperation among ourselves and the prevalence of a brotherly spirit, we will reach a way of thinking that will prevent us from overestimating ourselves to the point of delirium, or underestimating ourselves to the point of missing our chance to play an influential role.

The Arabs possess an extraordinary ability to accelerate the creation of an international balance because, in addition to the known traditional elements including the known strategic elements involving the region's geography and their influence, there is an additional element: the possesssion of an energy source unparalleled in the world. All the major influential powers are affected by this, be it the United States, Japan, or Europe, or even the Soviet Union. Consequently, when Arab influence, by virtue of this extra element, reaches this point, then we can speed up the creation of a balance that at least does not make Arab interests vulnerable.

On this issue, and if we can become convinced of the idea through brotherly dialogue, I think we should forge relationships with Europe, Japan, and the Soviet Union in a manner that will make us benefit from this element as soon as possible.

Chedli Klibi: This depends on whether the Arabs become a solid bloc and transcend their differences. This can be done by going back to the agenda of the 1980 Amman summit, in order to begin an integral Arab cooperation that will enable us to deal with Europe collectively instead of unilaterally.

The president: Exactly. The Arabs should not only settle their differences, but also organize their course of action by adopting positive steps. The more their course is organized through positive action, the more their influence will be. But, if we concern ourselves only with extinguishing fires, we will lose much of our energy inasmuch as we will be handicapped and unable to move forward.

Praise be to God, we hope that the new spirit in the Arab League will bring about leaders' meetings and other meetings and produce fraternal cooperation at the level of the three groupings—the Arab Maghreb Union, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the ACC. All these are positive signs. At the same time, our enemies will take the positive steps we announce into their calculations of the balances of power. They will take into account that behind every statement we make there is real action they have to deal with. They will assume that we mean what we say. When we do not translate what we say we will be the losers because our enemy will be aware that we are only making statements and not taking action.

What draws attention in the Americans' behavior is the quick appearance of the spirit of unilateralism although the international imbalance is not old. An example of this is encouraging Jewish emigration, particularly Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied territory, although the declared U.S. position is that it works for peace and that it is in touch with Egypt and the Palestinians on the basis that it wants to establish peace. Would someone who wants to achieve peace act this way? It is a superpower and it has become the first-ranking superpower, while the USSR, as a superpower, is undergoing a series of changes. In addition to this, we have taken note of U.S. statements on the Gulf and the assertions that the Israelis can use weapons stored in Israel. None of these signs is good.

In case of danger, there are always early signs. Israel always takes international changes and their effect into consideration. Israel has never lost an opportunity to take advantage of the atmosphere of change. Since the establishment of Israel—and even before it was established when it opened contacts with the Ottoman Empire and until the Balfour Declaration—the Jews who believe in the establishment of the State of Israel have always exploited opportunities. We must expect Israel to exploit the opportunity resulting from the current changes in the world.

Israel now is facing a clear question; that is, in light of its present situation time is not on its side. Tension in relations among the Arabs has begun to ease; the Arabs want to understand, resolve their problems, and cooperate among themselves. There is a real desire to know about the changes in the world and their effect on their situation; they want to know what they should do to become effective in the world. Arab scientific cadres are being formed and our intrinsic military capabilities are growing. The Israelis say that the news of Arab capabilities have surprised them.

Therefore, all this makes the Israelis realize that time is against them in terms of topography and politics, as well as other factors. Let us not rule out that some Israeli strategists will say that time is against us in this situation. If we can change this situation and change the military geography, time might be on our side.

Therefore, we should be alert over the next five years because when Israel wants to embark on military aggression it will take new land; it might launch a new attack to come out of its deadlock. Who will oppose them internationally?

The answer is no one, even if no one offered direct support to encourage it to launch aggression, no one will stand against Israeli aggression, as happened in the wars of 1967 and 1973 because the United States has remained alone in the arena of the big powers, and the U.S. policy is the policy we are now experiencing. Will the Soviet Union be capable of confronting the aggression if it takes place, or will it be Europe that confronts the aggression? All this makes us wonder what then is the situation?

The most influential stand vis-a-vis such a situation should come from within ourselves and our capabilities. There is no better way than this to remove the minefields that mar Arab relations. The second best way under these circumstances is also to push ahead joint action as expeditiously as possible. Faced with the quick developments, we should have a joint policy as Arabs on the regional level. It is not sufficent that Iraq has a policy, whether this policy is viewed as sound, or wrong in varying degrees, or that Egypt has such a policy, or Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and Algeria too. We are dutybound as Arabs to have a joint regional policy. The basic pillars of this joint regional policy are to reduce the number of the Arab nation's enemies, or to reduce the frictions that will add further enemies. Our relations with Ethiopia should not be bad. We must try to solve our problems with Iran as Arabs and within boundaries that safeguard our rights and do not encroach on its rights.

All these elements limit the Israeli ability to make inroads during the mentioned five-year period not only in the Arab land but also in terms of influencing the Arabs in the technological, politicial and military fields with its own efforts or with the help of Jewish influence in the world. If the Arabs take all these elements into consideration, they will find themselves in an excellent position and will prevent the wave from destroying their barriers. The wave will merely move from one place to another because their barriers are high and impregnable. The wave will thus be forced to change direction and to destroy barriers in other places.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid: Mr. President, when I was in Washington some two months ago, I met with U.S. Jewish figures who were worried about Israel's future because of the Jewish immigration. They were also worried that time is working against Israel because immigration will antagonize the entire region. This confirms what you have said that time is not in Israel's favor providing that we benefit and redress matters.

The president: There is the psychological aspect, which we usually tend to disregard and to which we do not pay too much attention, although it is more important than many other elements. If there are many parties battering the Arab body, then reaction will be lukewarm when Israel batters them too.

Marwan al-Qasim: These remarks could apply to the U.S. presence in the Gulf and the start of Jewish emigration.

The president: War-related comparisons should always be drawn because very profound human lessons can be learned from war. Unless a fighter is trained to face extremes of heat, he could watch the enemy invading his position without being able to raise his gun against him, although he knows that the enemy is coming to kill him. However, in such a case, he would be unable to raise his gun, or do anything else. Similarly, when facing extremely cold weather without having sufficient protection, he would also be unable to do anything. I had such an experience. Once, in special circumstances, I had to cross the Tigris and I needed all the clothes I was wearing. I reached the other side all wet, and knew that I would have my head cut off if I were discovered. That was in 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim's era. My headdress fell from me. I looked at it indifferently, left it there, and went away. I did not even pick it up from the ground. My jacket then fell from me and I did not bother to pick it up either. I only looked at it, and went away.

Therefore, when the Arab citizen sees Ethiopia betraying him, southern Sudan being lost, and something else being lost elsewhere, his reaction will not be strong when Israel commits aggression against an Arab country, even if that aggression results in a part of that Arab territory taken away.

Moreover, when interest in the Palestine question diminishes, the Arabs will not act either. When a long time passes without effective action, interest in an issue fades away. We saw this during the war. The Iraq-Iran war was called the forgotten war during most of its life, although those engaged in it were dancing on fire. That was because traditional fighting continued for a long time, 5-6 years. The Iranians would attack; fail, or gain control of a small piece of land. Then, both sides would issue communiques, and so on. Not very exciting things took place. Exciting events occurred in al-Faw when the Iranians captured it in 1986. However, afterward, things remained unchanged and the offensive was not developed. But when the Iraqis hit back strongly, we saw all sorts of "concerned people" rising from their seats and not returning to them until the war was over. That happened because something had broken the monotony of the previous 5 years.

There is another important issue, which is the situation in the occupied territories and the valiant popular resistance there.

It is not enough to show Arab solidarity with the intifadah in a traditional manner that may become ineffective if it remains unchanged. It is necessary to overhaul the means and formulas of attention and support. At the top of the list is extending real financial support to the militant Palestinian people and enhancing organized and meaningful political action in the international arena.

Brotherly dialogue among the Arabs—without preoccupation with small details—is one way to enhance such an approach.

Before anything else, let there be agreement on the major issues so as to avoid any disagreement over details. Then we can reach a convincing conclusion for all of us, and maintain collective enthusiasm for what we agree on.

Chedli Klibi: Arab League meetings have become traditional and routine, restricted to a specific agenda and to the interests of certain parties. This calls for a dialogue. I would like our brothers to meet every month to talk and know each other better, even without aides, so as to have a frank dialogue.

When we say that the intifadah is a pan-Arab action, in such frank meetings we could say that the intifadah might remove some regimes.

The president: We were talking about the intifadah at one point and comrade Tariq 'Aziz said that if, God forbid, Israel were on our border, would we not position our army on the border? Yes, we would position it on the border. Hence, the intifadah and Jordan are fighting and standing fast to defend the Arab nation. Accordingly, the intifadah and its actions represent an Arab army corps that is carrying out the task of weakening the Zionists in the occupied territories by using stones. We must provide the intifadah with its needs out of pan-Arab principles and regional security considerations. Let us then provide it with what an army corps needs in supplies and ammunition. Then, and only then, will we ensure the strength of the intifadah.

What weakens the enemy most is psychological exhaustion. Israel used to say that its soldier was invincible and some of us even believed it. Now, and due to the intifadah, that soldier looks weak and undisciplined. He no longer wears his beret or helmet and does not rise to salute his officers when they pass by. This, and other things, show that he lacks discipline. It is well known that the soldier's strength lies in his discipline.

The intifadah of the young people and valiant women has shown us the true, pathetic state of the Israeli soldier. They have told us: Here you see the Israeli soldier—a man whom we can defeat if we exhaust him. If we, the little ones and women, have destroyed the Israeli soldiers' morale, then Arabs, united and with greater power, are able to defeat the enemy and regain their rights.

Marwan al-Qasim: Mr. President, the intifadah has been going on for three years and it represents a new phenomenon that we should have taken advantage of to raise the level of pan-Arab responsibility toward the Palestine question. Regrettably, this has not happened.

Now we see certain new factors emerging on the ground that affect the residents of the West Bank and Gaza. Immigration to Israel has made some of them leave their lands and go to Jordan. Last year, Mr. President, 55,000 young Palestinians left the West Bank and Gaza and came to Jordan. This should make us think about maintaining, through resistance, what is left of Arab rights on the land until such time as we can use more effective methods to regain more than what we can regain now. We know that 80 percent of Israelis live on the Mediterranean coast and do not care about the intifadah. As for us, we are affected by the intifadah. The Israeli people have become used to the fact that there are children throwing stones, and the one who is really affected is the Israeli soldier who returns to his home town at the weekend. What I mean, Mr. President, is that without real, constant, and strong support for the intifadah, it may become ineffective in the future. Immigration itself and the absorption of thousands of new immigrants into Palestinian territory—whether in Israel or in the occupied territories—aim to end the Arab presence in Palestinian territory. And so expansion has become more likely than ever as a result of world developments and American support for Israeli settlement policies. The United States has said that it will not pay a single penny toward that end. The United States, however, represents only one dimension. The Congress could legislate funds for Israel; fund-raising by American Jews can also finance the settlement of hundreds of thousands. Things have, however, begun to change on the European front, because of rapid Israeli action. On the other hand, the Arabs have failed to act to neutralize Israel's tactics in Eastern Europe. Take East Germany, for example, Mr. President. A high-ranking U.S. official is negotiating with Israel on behalf of the East Germans for the payment of World War II reparations. These reparations may eventually be paid by the Federal Republic of Germany, which would want to foot the bill for German reunification by paying Israel and other countries. The cause of settlement would thus be advanced. The danger of Jewish settlement now looms over Arab security.

The president: Israel's capacity for expansion would therefore be boosted. Zionism stands to gain from settling Jewish immigrants in the occupied land. However, it is not enough for us to argue that they must not be housed in the Arab land occupied since 1967. Immigrants, wherever they settle, represent added strength to Israeli society.

Marwan al-Qasim: The situation is a litmus test of our ability to handle the problem.

The president: We must move quickly and have summit-level contacts. And as Mr. Chedli Klibi has pointed out, it would be better for Arab leaders to meet without an agenda. But at the top of any agenda should be current world changes, including the subject of Jewish immigration and how to address the problem it poses. They must also discuss the general framework of inter-Arab cooperation. We cannot overstate the importance of summit-level cooperation. We have learned from experience the effectiveness of holding high-level meetings more frequently than, say, every two years. Personal relationships and contacts between Arab leaders are not to be underestimated.

Al-Maskari from AL-KHALIJ: You have raised an important point, Mr. President. It was not a coincidence that things have turned out as they have in Eastern Europe and the USSR. Rather, it was the result of long-range planning that began with raising the question of human rights, the economic crisis, and the upheaval at the end of 1989.

We have heard Israeli statements that the next region marked for change after East Europe is the Middle East. Regrettably, we do not take these statements seriously. The first step in this context is the intensive Soviet Jewish immigration and then the intensive statements against Arab countries made by international human rights organizations. We consider these statements as evidence and a barometer by which we can measure

Western policy toward Arab countries. It is time for collective Arab action to stop the immigration, prevent the partition of Sudan, and take notice of Ethiopian-Israeli relations. We in the Gulf region have not been able to learn the true U.S. stance thus far.

The president: There are many Arab issues that need attention. From the administrative point of view, it would be better for the Arabs not to become preoccupied with minor details of a particular case. They should draw up a strategy defining their points of agreement in order to establish a policy on Ethiopia and the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict. Yemen and Egypt, for instance, along with the Arab League, might be entrusted with the task of resolving this problem. As for Sudan, for example, or any other subject, a small number of Arab countries' representatives might be asked to follow up the details once the agreed strategy has been aproved. In this way, we could accomplish several things at once. But if we all preoccupy ourselves with details, we will not accomplish anything in practice, because the movement of a large mass moves more slowly than a smaller one, which is natural. I wish we could adopt this method in the adminstrative sphere, too, or even any method that achieves results with the minimum of Arab preoccupation at the same time in minor details of a single issue. Such a method was applied to the Lebanese question when the Arabs agreed that only three of them would be involved in the details. A mistake might be made here or there on something that might not appeal to this or that person. In any case, the preoccupation of all the Arabs in minor details and in all issues at the same time would freeze their ability to resolve these issues.

You are welcome and I wish you the best. God willing, the Arab nation will always progress in every domain, including the most important domain and the key to all good; namely, true brotherhood and mutual reassurance among the Arabs. May God bless you. Convey my greetings to my brothers the presidents and kings.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Offers To Mediate in Lebanese Fighting

JN1702184090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] In Tunis, the Palestine news agency, WAFA, said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night contacted parties concerned with the serious developments in the Christian areas in Lebanon in an attempt to end the ongoing battles between General 'Awn's army and the Lebanese Forces militias, according to a WAFA report today.

PLO Radio Reports 'Initiative'

JN1802204490 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1926 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has held extensive contacts with all parties concerned in the serious developments in the eastern area of the Lebanese capital, Beirut.

Our radio correspondent has learned that brother leader president Abu-'Ammar offered an initiative to the parties concerned as part of his contacts to stop the fighting and to safeguard the safety, security, and unity of the sons of the fraternal Lebanese people, and Lebanon's territorial integrity.

Possible PLO-Israeli Compromise Reported

LD1902080990 Kuwait KUNA in English 0704 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 19 (KUNA)—It was reported here Monday that a compromise between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel might work out regarding the stalled issue of a direct Palestinian-Israeli meeting.

According to Arabic-language AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in a dispatch from Cairo, Israel has proposed to Egypt that the PLO allow the Government of Egypt to name members of the Palestinian delegation for the talks in return for condoning consultation between the delegation and the PLO during the talks.

Quoting officials from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, the paper said Egypt and the United States welcomed the proposal while the PLO is still considering it but there are good possibilities for approval.

The United States, Egypt, Israel and the PLO have been engaged in extensive talks centering on holding a direct Palestinian-Israeli meeting to discuss a plan for staging local elections to allow a limited Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, the paper said that a meeting between the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt and the U.S. will not be held during the month, as was anticipated, because of Israeli insistance on getting more assurances from the American Administration on a positive end for the efforts.

The paper said the meeting might be delayed for months if not held during next month due to the shortly coming congressional elections in the United States.

Fatah's Khalaf Criticizes U.S. PLO Legislation

JN1702114890 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 15 Feb 90 pp 1, 14

[By AL-BAYAN correspondents in Tunis and Cairo]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Congress has passed a new piece of legislation known as "the act of binding the PLO to its commitments" in order to continue the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, described the act as transforming the PLO into a village under U.S. trusteeship, which means that if the PLO allowed itself to negotiate on this basis, it would become no more than a branch of U.S. intelligence."

AL-BAYAN has received a copy of the text of the act, which was approved by the U.S. Senate calmly and without discussion as one of the articles in the U.S. State Department's annual law [as published]. It has been referred to U.S. President George Bush for signing, when it will come into force in accordance with U.S. foreign policy laws.

AL-BAYAN has learned that, according to information received by the PLO, President Bush will sign the act under the pretext that to reject this article would mean refusing to sign the State Department law as a whole, which is not possible.

According to the same information, the U.S. President will accompany his signing of the act with a clarification statement that is being prepared now. He will declare his objection to some points in the act which, from the White House point of view, constitute an interference in the President's constitutional right to conduct the country's foreign policy without restriction or interference from Congress.

The sources expected the White House statement to be issued in the next three days, because the U.S. President must sign the act in its complete form before 19 February.

Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, expressed his belief that if President Bush approves the act, then all pledges Washington made to the PLO will be canceled and Palestinian-U.S. contacts will be completely eliminated.

Abu-Iyad said in a statement to AL-BAYAN that the act means changing the PLO into a mere American village under the trusteeship of Washington. This will meet the demands set by Congress, primarily those calling on the Arabs to recognize Israel and cancel the economic boycott.

Abu-Iyad speculated about the reasons behind the act and what is being asked of the PLO now. He said that the U.S. President's acceptance of this act would amount to renting the PLO for nothing and turning it into a branch of American intelligence.

The Palestinian official added that the act would push Palestinian-U.S. relations toward alienation, because no Arab or Palestinian party would accept this. He called on the Arab countries to take notice of this issue because it threatens to stop all movement toward recognizing any of the Palestinian people's national and political rights. [passage omitted]

On efforts to push the peace process forward and hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, Salah Khalaf denied that the PLO had offered any guarantees concerning the formation of the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue, apart from the conditions defined by the PLO and accepted by the United States. Abu-Iyad said that the problem of deciding the party to announce the formation and members of the delegation, and disputes over the working schedule still exist. He reaffirmed the PLO's rejection of restricting the agenda to elections as that would destroy the heart of the Palestine cause.

In Cairo, a Palestinian source denied to AL-BAYAN reports about nominating members of the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue and on choosing the national leader Faysal al-Husayni as head of the delegation. He said: This is press speculation with no basis in truth. [passage omitted]

Khalaf Favors One-Party Government in Israel

JN1502211690 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
14 Feb 90 p 1

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, Abu-Iyad, has said that a one-party Israeli Government would come as a relief for the parties concerned with the Middle East issue. Khalaf was speaking against the backdrop of the split within the Likud leadership and the resignation of Israeli Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon. In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', Abu-Iyad said the PLO, world public opinion, and all concerned parties would be better off with a one-party government in Israel, even one of the far right. He explained that the PLO prefers to take on the Likud rather than deal with the current setup that has been in office for the past 3 years so that the United States would also have a clear picture.

The Middle East peace process, rather than marking time without taking a single step forward, would be better served by a straight Likud or Labor government without a coalition partner, added Khalaf.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian delegation made up of Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and Sulayman al-Najjab is due to leave Tunis for Moscow today to hold talks on the Middle East and familiarize themselves with the recent talks in Moscow between U.S. State Secretary James Baker and Soviet officials. The Palestinian officials will also raise the issue of the exodus of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine.

Khalaf Reacts to Egyptian 'Press Campaign'

JN1802195890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] The campaign between Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and some Egyptian newspapers continues. Today, the Tunisian newspaper AL-SAHAFAH published a statement by the Fatah Central Committee member, in which he said the Egyptian press campaign against him was really aimed at extracting further Palestinian concessions as a prelude to the forthcoming Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Abu-Iyad also stated that the Egyptians' anger intensifies every time the Camp David accords are mentioned, because they do not want anyone to mention the accords or remind them of the tragedy they represent.

Further on Reaction to Soviet Jewish Emigration

'Arafat on Convening Security Council

JN1802205690 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1926 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has said that he plans to ask the Arab states to call for a UN Security Council meeting to discuss the issue of settling Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

In a news statement, brother leader Abu-'Ammar announced that he told Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of this plan during his talks with him at Carthage Palace yesterday.

Brother leader Abu-'Ammar said that Jewish emigration to the occupied territories is a new Israeli military action, not only to occupy Palestine, but also to achieve its expansionist objectives of establishing Greater Israel. He stressed that the entire Arab nation is involved in this issue.

Brother leader Abu-'Ammar arrived in Tunis yesterday following a visit to fraternal Iraq where he met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

'Arafat Sends 'Urgent' Messages

JN1502183290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has sent urgent messages to the Governments of the PRC, Sweden, and Hungary on Palestinian developments, the repercussions of the Jewish immigration, and the stepped-up terror against our people. Brother Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and PLO representative in Tunis, conveyed urgent oral messages from brother Abu-'Ammar to the ambassadors of these nations when he received them in Tunis yesterday. The messages noted that Israel continues to place obstacles on the path of the peace process and that the United States assumes a vague, duplicitous, and inconsistent attitude toward Israeli intransigence—a stance that does not lend itself to optimism that the peace march will continue.

'Arafat, UN Official Talk

JN1602090490 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1928 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received UN Assistant Secretary General Jean-Claude Aime at his residence in Baghdad. They reviewed in detail the overall developments in the Palestine question, particularly the escalation of the bloody Israeli repressive policy against defenseless Palestinian citizens. The talks also centered on the Soviet Jews' emigration and the dangers it poses to the peace process in the Middle East as it constitutes a blatant violation of Palestinians' human rights. The talks also dealt with promoting international support for our Palestinian people's brave intifadah and their struggle to achieve a just and permanent peace in the Middle East.

Commentary on U.S. Role

JN1402223490 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: The issue of the Soviet Jews' emigration has highlighted important issues in the area of national political action. While some parties in the Arab world are trying to aim all their arrows at Moscow, being the home of the Jewish emigrants, many parties in the Arab media are ignoring—intentionally or unintentionally—the American role in the emigration issue.

It is known that the Soviet Jews' emigration is an issue fabricated by consecutive U.S. Administrations since the mid-seventies under the slogan of defending human rights. U.S. Administrations—in cooperation with the World Jewish Congress—have waged an intense propaganda campaign against the USSR to force it to allow Jewish emigration. Last year, when the general Soviet position changed on many issues, the United States moved under pressure from the Zionist lobby in Congress to pass legislation prohibiting the acceptance of Soviet Jewish emigrants in the United States—in order to force the Jews to head for Israel. This decision or legislation was adopted because the overwhelming majority of Soviet Jews who leave their country prefer to emigrate to the United States rather than occupied Palestine. Only 10 percent of Soviet emigrants go to occupied Palestine. These are the facts behind the American position that gives unlimited support to settling the Jews in the occupied Palestinian territory. These facts existed before the emigration issue reached the serious point we see today.

With regard to the facts of the present American position on this serious issue—a position that is directed against the Palestinians and their homeland and against the Arab nation, its interests, security, future, and existence—we would like to point to the following two events:

The first is U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's refusal, during his recent visit to Moscow, to issue a joint Soviet-American statement condemning the Israeli occupation and settling the Soviet Jews in the occupied territory.

The second event is the UN Security Council session to discuss the settling of Jews in the occupied territory, called at the request of the USSR. It is certain that the Americans will support the Zionist ambitions and objectives.

While waiting for the U.S. decision at the Security Council, we must recall the following facts:

1. The issue of emigration, which prompted Shamir's slogan of Greater Israel, has revealed the weak and fragmented Arab stance in the conflict with Zionism. This weakness not only insults pan-Arab dignity but also threatens the nation's interests at their very roots. The Arab countries must shoulder this responsibility and should work seriously to oppose Zionism, its ambitions, and its occupation.

2. Developments in the conflict with the enemy and the new factors in this conflict confirm that Arab countries have not done what is required to support the Palestinian intifadah. It is time we reassessed Arab support for the Palestinian struggle. This support reached its minimum level when Arab officials forgot that the intifadah is the first line of defense for the Arab nation and constitutes an impregnable stronghold against the enemy's expansionist ambitions that threaten the Arab states one after another.

3. Recent developments have also shown the deep split in Arab-American relations. The Americans have revealed their blatant antagonism to the nation and the Palestinian people. Neither the Palestinians nor the Arab people can any longer accept defeatism and resignation in Arab policy in the face of blatantly hostile U.S. policy to everything Arab.

4. The talk on the Palestinian position can be summed up in the words of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in which he announced that if they believe that the Palestinians will capitulate to Israeli terms they are deluding themselves—even if all the world's forces are on their side; the Palestinians will not accept capitulation; and our people will continue with their blessed intifadah, wave after wave, until the end of the Israeli occupation and until the Palestinian flag is raised in Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine.

'Arafat's 'Monthly Message' to Palestinians

JN1002200490 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1757 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Yasir 'Arafat's monthly message to Palestinians on the occasion of the 27th month of the intifadah; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Therefore patiently persevere, as did all apostles of inflexible purpose; and be in no haste about the unbelievers. On the day that they see the punishment promised them, it will be as if they had not tarried more than an hour in a single day. Thine but to proclaim the message. But shall any be destroyed except those who transgress? [Koranic verses]

Yes, sons of our struggling people in the homeland and the diaspora; yes, those who are standing fast in all positions, defending the revolution and the people; yes, my brothers and beloved, heroes of the blessed intifadah: Our oppressive enemies, the enemies of life and God, will be destroyed, and their schemes and those of their masters will not harm our blessed intifadah or stop the sweeping current of the masses, which takes on its way the strongest fortresses of injustice, oppression, aggression, and occupation. [passage omitted]

We have stressed and are stressing anew that the intifadah will continue and escalate even further, God willing. This will be possible through the belief of the masses, God's help, and our masses' unity and sacrifice until the last soldier of the Zionist occupation is removed from our homeland. And it was expected of us to aid those who believed. [Koranic verse]

My dear kinfolk, beloved ones, and our great struggling people: The latest meetings a few days ago of the PLO Executive Committee and higher Palestinian institutions provided an important opportunity to affirm the foundations of our political moves in the current stage. It was stressed that while we underline the resolution of the PLO Central Council on the holding of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, the PLO adheres to its natural and clear right to form the Palestinian delegation to this dialogue. The dialogue should also have an open agenda and be held under international auspices. Moreover, it should be an introduction to the international conference for peace in our Arab land and the entire region and for establishing Palestinian peace—and there can be no peace except the Palestinian peace—over Palestinian land, the just and comprehensive peace in the region, the peace of the courageous, not the capitulationists, God forbid. Sons of our great Palestinian people: The escalation of the blessed intifadah, associated with our firm and vital political position, adds daily to the achievements of our cause and activates the various circles and arenas. Over the past few days, and as you know, the ministerial Arab committee on the support of the intifadah held a meeting to prepare Arab moves for providing various forms of support for the intifadah and for dealing with the issue of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and other countries. It was agreed with His Majesty King Hassan II, chairman of the Arab summit, to hold a meeting for the Palestine Committee, which was set up by the Casablanca summit.

Over the past weeks, there have also been rallies in many Arab capitals to celebrate the anniversary of the intifadah. These reflected the deep impact of the intifadah on the conscience of our Arab masses. These masses genuinely and strongly expressed their support for Palestine, the Palestinian people, and the intifadah.

On the international level, Europe adopted advanced positions by increasing support for our cause and suspending various agreements for cooperation with Israel over its crimes and oppression. There is also the new Japanese position, and the stances of the Nonaligned Movement, the Scandinavian countries, and the friendly Soviet Union, which adopted a strong stance at the Malta meeting. There is also the firm Chinese stance and the positions of the pope, the World Council of Churches, all friendly countries, and even Jewish communities in the world. It is the right that triumphs over the wrong; it is the will of our people imposing itself; the sacrifices of our people bearing fruit. [passage omitted]

DFLP Requests POW Status for Arrested Members

JN1602103890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to intervene and make Israel give POW [prisoner of war] treatment to three DFLP fighters who were arrested while trying to infiltrate into Israel from southern Lebanon yesterday.

Algeria

SDP Suspends Leader; Congress Set for Mid-May

LD1702212990 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] A new development in the Social Democratic Party [SDP] crisis: Mr. Adjerid has been suspended as chairman by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is the highest authority between two congresses. This has been recalled by the communique published by the Executive Bureau of the Social Democratic Party. The Steering Committee has also set the date of the emergency congress, 17 and 18 May in Algiers. Two-thirds of the committee met two days ago in Zeralda to discuss the crisis that opposes the Executive Bureau and the SDP chairman. In addition to the suspension of the chairman, the Steering Committee has decided to present Mr. Adjerid to the National Disciplinary Commission for breaching rules and, I quote, the irregular and suspicious use of party funds. I recall that yesterday Mr. Adjerid decided to dissolve the Executive Bureau. He will give more details this afternoon during a news conference.

Mozambique President Arrives for Official Visit

LD1702130590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Summary] Mozambique President Joaquim Alberto Chissano landed at Houari Boumedienne International Airport today. He will hold a series of talks with Algerian officials during his four-day official visit, and will also visit some Algerian cities.

Lays Wreath at Martyrs Monument

MB1802082690 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Official Mozambican-Algerian talks began in Algiers this morning within the framework of President Joaquim Chissano's visit to Algeria. The talks were opened by Presidents Joaquim Chissano and Chadli Bendjedid.

Mozambique and Algeria have a general cooperation agreement and a joint commission which has already met on three occasions. Prior to the talks, President Joaquim Chissano laid a wreath on the martyrs monument and visited the Museum of the Revolution.

Holds Talks With Bendjedid

LD1802202290 Algiers APS in English 1003 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Algiers, 18 Feb (APS)—Political talks between President Chadli Bendjedid and Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano started Saturday here in presence of the delegations of the two countries. President Chissano, who arrived for an official visit at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid, told the press that he has "come here to renew links of friendship and fraternity between Algeria and Mozambique". On this occasion, the Mozambique president recalled the contribution of Algeria for the liberation struggle of austral African people, and put the stress on peace which is "of a primordial interest".

Moroccan Interior Minister Meets With Mohamedi

LD1802201390 Algiers APS in English 1027 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Algiers, 18 Feb (APS)—A working session was held Saturday here between an Algerian delegation led by Minister of Interior Mohamed Salah Mohamedi and a Moroccan delegation led by Driss Basri, minister of interior and information. On this occasion, Mohamedi said this meeting falls in the frame of orientations of the leaders of the two countries and is aimed at reinforcing cooperation between the two sectors in the most important fields. He recalled in this context the agreements signed on July 5 and August 3, 1989 which set the main lives and will open great prospects in important and sensible fields such as the flow of persons and goods and the development of border areas.

On his turn, Moroccan Minister of Interior of Information, Driss El Basri said this visit is aimed at deepening relations between the two countries underlining that the flow of persons between the two countries has witnessed a sensible improvement. However, he pointed out, cooperation in the field of commerce, economy and culture remains beyond the expected objectives. "It is necessary at present to materialize the aspirations of the Algerian and Moroccan peoples in conformity with the wise policy advocated by the leaders of both countries".

Minutes of Meetings Signed

LD1902110590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Morrocan Interior Minister Driss Basri was received this morning at the National People's Assembly by Rabat Bitat, the speaker. During the meeting, the two men exchanged views on bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The two sides consider that the results achieved in this field are encouraging and that the prospects of developing this cooperation augur well.

Driss Basri was also received today by Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali. During the audience the two men exchanged views on the general terms for the movement of people and their stay in the two countries, in addition to measures taken to exploit economic integration, especially in the border regions, in implementation of the directives issued by President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II during their recent meeting in Tunis held on the sidelines of the Maghreb summit. The working session between the Algerian and Moroccan delegations was crowned with the signing of the minutes of the proceedings. The minutes were signed by the two countries' interior ministers, Mohamad Salah Mohamedi and Driss Basri, who expressed their satisfaction with the measures proposed by the joint working groups and with the atmosphere of trust and understanding which prevailed during these proceedings.

The Algerian interior minister said: Today we began giving a concrete form to the aspirations of our two peoples and the orders of our wise leaders.

The Moroccan interior minister for his part said that the results of these proceedings confirm the real determination to push forward the cooperation between Morocco and Algeria under the intelligent guidance of the two countries' leaders.

Ministers Explain Agreements

LD1902151190 Rabat MAP in English 1222 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Algiers, Feb. 19 (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri paid a two-day state visit to Algeria this weekend at the head of a large delegation.

The visit marked by intensive talks with several Algerian officials including Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, Minister of the Interior Mohamed Salah Mohammedi, Foreign Affairs Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali, Minister of Transports Hadi Khediri and Speaker of the National Assembly (Parliament) Rabah Bitat, was crowned by the signing of minutes of Basri's talks with his Algerian peer Salah Mohamedi and of the meetings of the working groups formed by the two countries' delegations.

Saturday evening, Basri and Salah Mohamedi co-chaired a working session that was devoted to discussing means of organizing and consolidating Moroccan-Algerian relations.

Basri underlined on the occasion the two countries' determination to consolidate their cooperation which "remains so far below the two sides' expectations". Noting that the movement of persons between the two countries has improved, Basri expressed hope that trade and cultural exchanges and relations between the two countries' administrations will follow suit.

"The new momentum the two governments want to give to their relations is eased by the deep changes taking place in Algeria which freely decided to opt for the multi-party system," Basri said underlining the two parties' "political will" to consolidate their relations.

The turn taken by bilateral cooperation, Basri went on to say, is positive, encouraging and promising and "there is no longer any insurmountable obstacle likely to hamper the promotion of the brotherly relations existing between the two countries". Basri stressed the importance of cooperation at the level of the border regions saying the two sides must implement joint programs of action to ensure the regions social and economic development. "The border regions must become bridges for fruitful and positive cooperation and a spot for direct contacts between public and private operators," Basri said.

Salah Mohamedi had earlier underlined that this Moroccan-Algerian meeting was taking place at a moment Maghreban cooperation was marked by a new dynamics meant to materialize Maghreban people's aspirations to unity.

The Algerian official stressed the crucial importance of regional groupings and expressed appreciation for the progress made so far in Moroccan-Algerian relations.

Describing the achievements made so far by the two countries as "positive and encouraging", Salah Mohamedi said bilateral cooperation will focus on environment protection and prevention and struggle against natural hazards. Exchange of visits between the two countries' senior officials and between governors of border provinces will also be enhanced, Salah Mohamedi said announcing that a follow up committee will be set up.

Basri's talks with other Algerian officials reviewed bilateral cooperation and progress made so far in the edification of the Maghreb.

Basri who flew back home Sunday evening was also received by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to whom he conveyed a message of friendship and brotherhood from King Hassan II.

Egypt

Mubarak Reportedly To Dissolve People's Assembly

LD1802124190 Kuwait KUNA in English 0912 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 18 (KUNA)—The Egyptian People's Assembly will be dissolved soon and several important actions will be taken concerning this issue, well informed unidentified Egyptian sources said Sunday.

Kuwait daily AL-SIYASAH, quoting these sources, said that the People's Assembly will be dissolved as soon as Egyptian President Husni Mubarak returns from his scheduled trip to the Soviet Union next month. President Mubarak will take some actions, the most important one of which is asking the government to submit its resignation, selling of public sector, forming political parties and allowing individual candidacy in the elections, the sources said.

The daily said that many political forces in Egypt have began moving secretly to prepare for the forthcoming parliamentary elections, which the sources described as very competitive.

The sources expected that the party movements in Cairo will ask for the formation of a neutral government to join the elections.

Mubarak To Make Proposal on Jewish Emigration

NC1802172990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1707 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Aswan, 18 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that he will put forward a proposal regarding the settlement of Soviet Jews outside the occupied Arab territories during his upcoming visit to Moscow. In a statement to reporters in Aswan today, President Mubarak stressed that the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration will be a main topic at his talks with Soviet officials.

President Mubarak pointed out that he has sent messages on the emigration issue to Soviet President Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush. He noted that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has sent a message to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens emphasizing that the territories are Arab and disputed areas on which no solution has been reached. Mubarak asserted that it is unjust and grossly incorrect for Israel to act unilaterally in this issue.

Al-Qadhdhafi Arrives in Aswan for Visit 18 Feb

LD1802143690 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The brother leader of the revolution this afternoon arrived in Aswan, 950 kilometers south of Cairo. The brother leader of the revolution was accorded a big welcome. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt led those who welcomed the brother leader at the Aswan airport. Also welcoming him were 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Yusif Wally, deputy prime minister of agriculture; Mahir Abaza, minister of electricity and energy; Safwat Sharif, minister of information; Jamal al-Sayyid, minister of state for military production; 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research; Raghib Duwaydar, minister of health; Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, minister of industry; and Lieutenant General Qadri 'Uthman, governor of Aswan. [passage omitted]

The brother leader of the revolution is accompanied by the secretary of People's Committee of Strategic Industries; the secretary of People's Committee of Higher Education; and the secretary of General People's Committee of Health.

The brother leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a meeting in camera this afternoon in Aswan.

Mubarak Comments After Talks

NC1802181990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1701 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Aswan, 18 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has said that Egypt and Libya are proceeding with clear, precise, and careful steps along the road to develop and consolidate their relations in all fields. Mubarak noted that Egypt and Libya are two brotherly and neighborly Arab countries and it is only natural that their ties should be good and cordial.

In statements he made today at the Cataract Hotel in Aswan, President Mubarak said that he and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, discussed all aspects of bilateral relations. Mubarak also noted that cooperation is already taking place between various ministers and sectors in both countries, particularly in the areas of agriculture, industry, and energy.

Following his talks with Col. al-Qadhdhafi, Mubarak said that he and the Libyan leader discussed Libyan needs for Egyptian expertise in industries such as textiles and iron and steel.

Concerning energy, Mubarak told journalists that studies are being prepared to connect Egypt's electricity grid with Libya's. This, he said, is part of the current plan to link the electrical networks of Arab countries up to Turkey [hatta Turkiya].

President Mubarak said that cooperation between Egypt and Libya is natural, important, and necessary, adding that the competent ministers will discuss all the necessary details.

Concerning ties between Egypt and Arab countries, Mubarak said that Egypt's interests are in harmony with those of the Arab people. We have good relations with all countries in the world, both in the East and in the West, for this is a necessity of our times. We must, as one Arab nation, be aware of the current international developments which call for Arab cooperation in all fields, particularly the economic field. The main challenge facing the world now and in the future, Mubarak said, is economic.

President Mubarak said that we must prepare ourselves to confront this challenge. We must have a unified plan of action in the face of the international economic groupings.

As an Arab nation, Mubarak said, we have to define our place in the international scene in light of the current developments. The coming conflict, he said, is economic, and we have to find a place for the Arab people on the international economic map.

[Paris AFP in English at 1725 GMT on 18 February in an Aswan-datelined report on Mubarak's statement following his meeting with Al-Qadhdhafi adds: "Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi are to meet every two months to ensure bilateral coopertion, Mr Mubarak announced here Sunday."]

Information Minister Views Talks

LD1802183190 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, held a working session this afternoon.

After the meeting, brother Safwat al-Sharif, Egyptian information minister, made a statement to the press indicating that during the session the brother leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak reviewed Arab issues, foremost the Palestinian issue and its latest developments. He added that the brother leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak also examined the situation in Lebanon and comprehensively reviewed Arab and African issues.

The information minister of Egypt noted that the meeting between the brother leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in Aswan came as a continuation and confirmation of the principles laid down at their meetings in Matruh, Tubruq, and Surt and that it was also aimed at continuing the coordination of Arab action in dealing with Arab issues.

He added that the Aswan meeting took place also to assess and follow up joint action in various fields and that this confirmed the determination of the two sister countries to achieve continuous progress in their fraternal relations.

Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi Tour Sinai

NC1902154890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have visited the southern Sinai Governorate. They inspected the Red Sea cities of Sharm al-Shaykh and al-Ghardaqah. Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi boarded a plane at Aswan airport for a 40-minute low-altitude overflight of Sinai, during which they saw various tourist sites in the southern Sinai Governorate from the cockpit of the plane. The plane flew over Sinai up to the Egyptian-Israeli border in the Tabah area, which the two leaders could see very clearly.

The aircraft landed at the Ra's Nasrani international airport in Sharm al-Shaykh. The two leaders toured Sharm al-Shaykh and saw the new tourist villages along Ni'mah beach in Sharm al-Shaykh. Afterward, their aircraft flew over the large air base west of the Gulf of Aqaba, which Israel used to occupy. Israel had intended to use the base as an alternative to Elat airport.

The southern Sinai governor gave Col. al-Qadhdhafi a copper platter engraved with a map of Sinai as a gift. The two leaders then boarded the aircraft and went to the city of al-Ghardaqah, where they inspected new tourist projects on the Red Sea from a car driven by President Mubarak. The two leaders then proceeded to the Sheraton al-Ghardaqah Hotel where they had lunch. Also attending the lunch were members of the Egyptian and Libyan delegations, who arrived in al-Ghardaqah earlier.

Mubarak Issues Communique

NC1902163490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo from al-Ghurdaqah at 1645 following the conclusion of his discussions with Libyan revolution leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Aswan and the two leaders' tour of Sinai, Sharm al-Shaykh, and the Red Sea area.

The following communique was issued after Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's visit:

Brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great September Revolution, and the delegation accompanying him visited Egypt from 18 to 19 February 1990. He was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in the city of Aswan. The people of Aswan expressed their great love for brother Col. al-Qadhdhafi. Members of the Libyan delegation were accorded a warm welcome.

The two leaders reviewed the international situation and regional developments as well as all aspects of Arab issues.

At the recommendation of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Egyptian and Libyan delegations discussed aspects of the close cooperation achieved in various fields since the Tubruq declaration of 17 October 1989.

The progress made in implementing what was agreed upon during the Tubruq and Surt meetings was reviewed. The two sides expressed their satisfaction with what has been achieved in the various fields so far. It was decided that the periodic meetings on the ministerial and popular committee levels should continue to give an impetus to these efforts and that expanded meetings of ministers, committee members, and experts should be held during the next few weeks.

These meetings have shown the two sides' hopes for further achievements and their genuine intention to develop the ties of fraternity and close cooperation between them for the welfare of the two fraternal peoples.

Concludes Visit, Departs 19 Feb

NC1902155590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Al-Ghardaqah, 19 Feb (MENA)—Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and his accompanying delegation left al-Ghardaqah in the Red Sea Governorate at approximately 1600 today following a 3-day visit. During his visit Col. al-Qadhdhafi held talks with President Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations and Arab and international issues of common concern. He was seen off at al-Ghardaqah airport by President Mubarak, senior state officials, Red Sea Governor Lieutenant General Yusuf 'Afifi, and key figures in the governorate. The (?governor) presented both presidents with brass platters on which their portraits had been painted and souvenirs made out of shells.

Libyan Secretary Comments, Leaves Cairo

NC1502131390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation, left Cairo this morning following a four-day visit. He attended the meetings of the coordination committee for the liberation of Africa. [passage omitted]

Al-Talhi said that he had the opportunity to meet with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. They discussed Egyptian-Libyan relations, Arab affairs, and especially the issue of emigration to the occupied land by Soviet Jews.

Libyan Central Bank Governor Ends 5-Day Visit

NC1502175990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1353 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Libyan Central Bank Governor Dr Muhammad al-Zarruq left Cairo this afternoon after a five-day visit during which he met with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Central Bank Governor Dr Salah Hamid.

In a departure statement, Dr al-Zarruq said his meetings with the Egyptian officials tried to find solid grounds for economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. The Libyan official was seen off at the airport by Finance Minister Dr Muhammad al-Razzaz and Central Bank Governor Dr Salah Hamid.

Libyan Agriculture Secretary Arrives 15 Feb

NC1502192190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1742 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Engineer 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qu'ud, secretary of the General Peoples' Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and his accompanying delegation arrived here this evening on a visit to Egypt that will last for several days. The visit comes in response to an invitation by Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation.

In an arrival statement, the Libyan official said he will discuss with the Egyptian officials ways to implement the points agreed upon by President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, during their meetings in Tubruq, Surt, and Marsa Matruh. He added that he will also discuss prospects for benefiting from Egyptian expertise in the field of agriculture and land reclamation. [passage omitted]

UAE President Holds Talks With Mubarak in Cairo

NC1602194490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], held talks this afternoon. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, a number of ministers, and members of the delegation accompanying Shaykh Zayid attended some of the talks.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the two leaders discussed Arab affairs in light of international developments. They stressed the importance of inter-Arab cooperation to serve the Arab world's future interests and emphasized the need for Arab leaders to adopt an Arab strategy in this regard.

The two leaders underlined the importance of constant and continued consultations with a view to bringing viewpoints closer and enhancing inter-Arab action in all fields. The two leaders, Al-Sharif added, also reviewed a number of African issues, foremost being the ongoing efforts to resolve the dispute between Mauritania and Senegal.

Comments on Arab Solidarity, Lebanon

NC1602230090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1709 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has declared that Egypt is the only Arab country trying to find a solution to the Palestinian issue. Egypt is exerting efforts and holding extensive and continued contacts with the Palestinians, Americans, and Israelis. He added that if we want Egypt to negotiate for a solution to the Palestinian issue, we have to give it full authorization to speak in the name of and on behalf of the Arabs. We must also enable Egypt to form a committee representing all Arab countries which will undertake this task.

Shaykh Zayid made this statement during the meeting at his residence here with the ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council member-states. The UAE president reiterated the Arab world's pressing need for solidarity and cohesion, particularly now at a time when the major states, both East and West, have begun cooperating more closely and forming blocs. Even though they are not as closely tied as we Arabs are, they have found that it is essential for them to get closer and to cooperate. We Arabs are in urgent need of this cooperation and rapport, and we should have done this long before the East or the West thought about it, he added.

Regarding his talks with President Mubarak, Shaykh Zayid said: We have covered all the current Arab issues and reached the conclusion that inter-Arab solidarity, cohesion, and a common plan will allow us to solve all of our problems.

Turning to the developments in Lebanon, the UAE president said: The situation in Lebanon is marked by instability and unrest. We should not stand by and let the Lebanese fight, assuming that they will eventually stop the fighting themselves, but we Arabs must try to reconcile them. [passage omitted]

Confers With Mubarak 17 Feb

NC1702131290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], held a meeting in the presidential office in Heliopolis this morning, at the end of Shaykh Zayid's five-day visit to Cairo.

During the meeting, the two leaders reviewed current world and regional matters that concern both countries. In particular, they discussed the Middle East issue in light of recent world developments, efforts to bring peace and stability to the region, and the deteriorating situation in Lebanon. They also discussed ways to consolidate and expand cooperation between Egypt and the UAE in the various economic, political, and cultural spheres. [passage omitted]

Departs for Bahrain

NC1702132090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, left Cairo for Bahrain at noon today, following a friendly week-long visit to Egypt.

President Husni Mubarak was at the head of Shaykh Zayid's farewell committee, which included People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, Assistant to the President Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah, the deputy prime ministers, the ministers, the Armed Forces chief of staff, and the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces branches. [passage omitted]

UAE Economy Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC1802212090 Cairo MENA in English 2050 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, Feb 18 (MENA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] Minister of Economy and Commerce Sayf al-Jarwan arrived this evening here on a several days visit to Egypt.

Upon arrival at the airport, the minister said he is visiting Egypt at the invitation of Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Yusri Mustafa to participate in the 48th session of the Arab Social and Economic Council, due to start here tomorrow Monday for three days. He added that important topics would be tackled in the meetings, including unified Europe experiment and European economic relations and impact on Arab countries.

The UAE Arab Maritime Transportation Academy deputy director arrived this evening here to participate in the same meetings.

'Abd-al-Majid Returns From Baghdad

NC1702180090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, tonight returned to Cairo from Baghdad where he attended the festivities marking the anniversary of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

In an arrival statement, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that he has an oral message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn responding to the message he received from President Husni Mubarak.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid praised the achievements of the ACC in the year that has elapsed since its establishment. This past year, he said, was fruitful in terms of the number of agreements that were signed in many areas and the boost that was given to cooperation among the ACC members.

Commenting on the remarks by Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad) to the effect that the chances for Middle East peace have been exhausted, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that Abu-Iyad is responsible for what he said. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid added that it is necessary to work tirelessly for the cause of peace and to overcome all the obstacles along its path.

Lebanese Economy Minister Arrives 17 Feb

NC1702142390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA)—Dr Nazih al-Bizri, Lebanese minister of economy and trade, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this afternoon. During his stay in Cairo, Dr al-Bizri will participate in the 48th session of the Arab Economic and Social Council which is to begin tomorrow, 18 February, and last for 5 days.

Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, who welcomed the Lebanese minister at the airport, said that among the topics on the council's agenda are the issues of European unity in 1992, Arab economic unity, the North-South dialogue, and the Arab-European dialogue.

Senegalese Foreign Minister Comments, Departs

NC1502135190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1007 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Senegalese Minister of Foreign Affairs Ibrahima Fall has said that he prefers to keep President Husni Mubarak's proposals to resolve the Sengalese-Mauritanian dispute secret so that President Abdou Diouf will be the first to hear them. In an exclusive statement to MENA before leaving Cairo for Paris this morning, Fall said that Senegal hopes that a comprehensive and peaceful settlement will be achieved. This goal, he said, is the task of all parties.

He said: We must exhibit realism, objectivity, and courage to settle the existing problems and not conceal, deny, or reject certain aspects of the dispute. We must wait for the upcoming meeting in Addis Ababa before we can describe properly the outcome of the Cairo meetings. We can then learn each party's stand and make the necessary assessment of what has taken place. He pointed out that his country's stand is firm, has not changed, and is based on a comprehensive and final settlement between Senegal and Mauritania and giving up recourse to arms. [passage omitted]

African Liberation Committee's Recommendations

NC1402213990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—The coordination committee for the liberation of Africa has condemned the racist South African state for its continued acts of aggression, terrorism, and destabilization in the African frontline states and all neighboring countries.

In its recommendations at the conclusion of its session in Cairo today under the chairmanship of Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, the committee called for racist South Africa to immediately end its aid to the agent groups in Mozambique and Angola. It appealed to the international community to consolidate all efforts to achieve national reconciliation in those countries.

The committee praised Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano and Angolan President dos Santos' efforts and their governments' initiatives to restore normal life.

The committee urged the international community to increase its financial and technical aid to the African frontline states to face the South African Government's acts of aggression, extortion, and destabilization. It also lauded the African frontline states and their aid to the African National Congress [ANC] and South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO] in their legitimate struggle for the liberation of Africa.

The committee expressed concern over the growing military cooperation between the racist South African regime and a number of countries such as Chile, Israel, Turkey, and Taiwan. It condemned the continued application of the emergency law and the arrest of politicians. It paid tribute to the struggling South African people and the efforts of the international community, which exercised pressure leading to the lifting of the ban on the ANC, the Pan- Africanist Congress of Azania [PACA], and the other 34 orgainzations.

The committee praised the unity and solidarity among all the anti-apartheid forces and asserted that the unity of goals and coordination of efforts are the only way to foil the racist regime's attempts to break up the struggle for ending apartheid and establishing a nonracist and democratic society in South Africa.

The committee welcomed the mobilization of the efforts of the national liberation movements and the progressive African and international forces to end the apartheid system through genuine negotiations in accordance with the Harare declaration on apartheid. It announced its rejection of the National Party's alleged five-year declaration that aims to perpetuate racism and the white minority's domination in South Africa.

The committee asserted Africa's resolve to provide assistance to all forms of legitimate struggle of the ANC and PACA in the event a negotiated settlement has not been reached.

It condemned the racist South African regime for detaining the South Africans in difficult and inhuman conditions, welcomed the unconditional release of these courageous men, some of whom are in bad health, and urged the immediate and unconditional release of the remaining political prisoners and detainees.

The committee strongly condemned the military and nuclear cooperation between the racist Pretoria regime and Israel, as well as the military cooperation between this regime and a number of countries, and called for the adherence to UN Security Council Resolution 418 on banning arms supplies to South Africa. It also strongly condemned racist South African Foreign Minister Botha's visit to Hungary, calling on the government of Hungary and all other countries to halt any cooperation with the racist regime.

It condemned the current visit to racist South Africa by the English cricket team, which violated international resolutions that do not favor the establishment of sports and cultural relations between the racist South Africa and the international community.

The coordination committee urged the international community to maintain the sanctions imposed on the South African regime both on regional and international levels. It urged the international community to impose collective and obligatory sanctions on South Africa. It also appealed to the OAU member countries and the international community in general to provide further comprehensive support for the ANC and PACA.

The committee welcomed the successful conclusion of the free and impartial elections in Namibia according to UN Security Council Resolution 435. In this respect, the committee praised the UN and international community for their firm commitment and solidarity in contributing to the motivation for the momentous and essential move to bring about Namibia's independence. The committee urged the international community and all democratic forces to closely monitor the Namibian independence process and to give the necessary aid to the Namibian people to enable them to gain genuine independence.

It strongly condemned the racist South Africa's continued plots, especially the merging of the (Kofot) gang with the South-West Africa police force, which is supposed to maintain law and order during the Namibian independence process. These plots aim to prevent SWAPO from reaping the fruits of victory it attained during the elections.

The committee urged the immediate discharging of the (Kofot) members and the disbanding of its leadership.

It stressed the Namibian people's inalienable right to national independence and sovereignty over their territories, including Walvis Bay, (Penguin), and the remaining remote islands, according to UN Security Council Resolution 432.

It appealed to the UN secretary general to provide guarantees to ensure that the racist Pretoria regime will bear its full responsibility for all the political prisoners and detainees who are said to be still under its control. The committee urged the international commitee to provide the necessary aid to the UN refugees affairs high commissioner to facilitate the Namibian people's repatriation, settlement, and rehabilitation. It also appealed to the international community to provide the Namibian state with the necessary aid, including the mobilization of an international support for projects and programs to reconstruct the country and develop the economy for the benefit of the Namibian people.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses University Forum 17 Feb

LD1802160290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Report on address by President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the Arab Universities Union meeting in al-Bayan al-Awwil, Banghazi, on 17 Feb]

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awwil, 18 Feb (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has pointed out that the Al-Fatih revolution's effort for the sake of bringing about Arab unity over the past 20 years is the the platform upon which Arabs are making their moves today.

The brother leader of the revolution added: "Today we feel that our effort for more than 20 years has borne fruit; every Arab, irregardless of whether he is an official or not, has realized the need for Arab unity."

The brother leader of the revolution affirmed that any empire, even ours, includes a number of nationalities, and therefore it will be torn by national strife. He pointed out that this (?doctrine) has distanced the possibility of the break up of the socialist bloc and the Soviet Union because both are based upon Marxism-Leninism and Communism. The leader added that history has affirmed that the nationalist factor will emerge and will change the world map yet again, a matter which has been noted in the "Green Book."

He continued by saying: We have said that the nationalist factor will come out victorious. Nationalist strife has begun in the Soviet Union. The United States, which is an amalgam of a number of nationalities, also will be torn by nationalist strife among millions of oppressed blacks, and American Indians, and among Yankees [word indistinct], Muslims, and Jews.

The brother leader pointed out that the "Green Book's" predictions that repression will come to an end and that the one-party rule, notwithstanding claims that it can survive if it is nationalist, also will come to an end. The brother leader said that one-party rule has collapsed, from Tunis to the Soviet Union. No one today deems to rule a people. People are no longer a herd; rather they are human beings, who decide their own destinies away from such traditional institutions as parliaments and political parties. He stressed that attachment to the parliamentary system is a futile and a stupid attempt that has been superseded by events; it is merely a procrastinating attempt to patch up and prolong the life of systems that are in their death throes.

The brother leader of the revolution indicated that the Arab nation is at a crossroads. So how do we achieve the unity that has become a necessity, and not just a sentimental request? [passage indistinct] cooperation, official actions through the Arab League, and unionist attempts, such as the ones we have undertaken.

The leader remarked that in the past, two leaders could sign a unity agreement between two peoples because they were on good terms, but if their moods changed the next day, this unity was dissolved, and the masses who had applauded and acclaimed at the start, lamented at the end, without anything else to show for it.

The leader said further that this was a despicable situation for the masses, as they did not own anything else for their self-determination.

The brother leader of the revolution reviewed the analysis put forward by the "Green Book" [word indistinct] the development of the means of government (?and said): We predicted there would come a era called "the era of the masses" and that repression, subjugation, and exploitation were temporary endeavors that would not last.

He added: Now, a new phase has started in which the masses refuse to be governed by anyone, and want to rule themselves. Slogans like: Representation is a fake! and

No representation on behalf of the people! have appeared. We have said that this era is that of the masses, and that this is an inevitable thing in history.

The leader stressed that he who wants to achieve Arab unity must endeavor to put the Arab dynamic forces forward in [word indistinct]. The battle should be fought by the masses.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed that tribal and religious regimes do not permit freedom of scientific research or the Third Universal Theory because a religion-based regime turns religion into a policy by which regimes and rules have the power of life and death over people.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said further that a society founded on a religious-political system prohibits individual interpretation of religious dogma [ijtihad] and scientific research because scientific research knows no boundaries, stressing that true religion is [words indistinct].

He said that the masses must start a cultural revolution first so that afterwards we may be able to achieve a popular revolution and all the goals of scientific research, Arab unity, an invulnerable force, prosperity, progress, and happiness. We then must begin with a cultural revolution at universities, and by destroying the bourgeoisie at universities and delivering students from the sadism complex. In addition, all efforts must be harnessed for the progress of the Arab nation, its prosperity and unity, and we must set aside all trivialities that take us backward.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi called for the masses of the Arab nation to enjoy full freedom in order to hold people's congresses, trade unions, and committees, so that the masses may be able to rule themselves. Then governments, armies, and police will be abolished and replaced by popular security. The armed people then would emerge, with congresses and committees everywhere. This is freedom, if we want to have it! As for multipartism and capitalism, they lead societies to the capitalist camp and to the United States, which opposes revolution and stands against human rights and the liberation of Palestine.

The brother leader of the revolution noted that Arab universities are classical, reactionary, and very backward places, where dictatorship is exercised openly and the students have no value, their opinions are not heard, and they are humiliated by their teachers.

In his speech yesterday he said that the students' revolution took place in Libya on 7 April 1976. Since then, the popular revolution in Libyan universities has been escalating. Now we have reached the stage of students' universities, which are managed by their students and controlled by them through students conferences and student popular committees.

The brother leader of the revolution said: If we want to unite the Arab nation on the basis of this gathering [as received], it would be a praiseworthy unionist action step, for which you would be thanked and saluted. He said: I will highly praise it because it will complete our work to achieve the Arab nation's unity, which has become a necessity, and is not just an emotional demand. It has become essential to our lives. We have no future without Arab unity.

The brother leader of the revolution stressed that the "Green Book" does not include violence, and there are no machineguns or guns in it.

He pointed out in his talks at the evening session of the Arab Universities Union currently being held at al-Bayan al-Awwal, Banghazi, the violent stand the West German Government had taken over the past two years against a German sports team that had the "Green Book" printed on their shirts.

He said that when the West German interior minister was asked whether he had read the "Green Book" he denied, it saying that he took this stance just because the book was written by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The leader said further that when the minister read the book, he found in it a humane call to liberate mankind from bullets, tyranny, the exploitation of wage-earning, and repression. He also found in it a talk about the necessity of the unity of mankind, ridding it of the aspects of violence, and putting an end to wrestling, boxing, bull-fighting, and all violent games, as duels with pistols were ended.

The leader indicated that there is no room left for those savage games in Libya because we disapprove of these things. There are mass sports, and all masses should practice sports in order to benefit from them.

The leader said that those who read the "Green Book" are unanimous on the fact that it contains a humanitarian call that has not reached the East or the West. These truths made the German team, which had been repressed because they had the "Green Book" printed on its shirts, win the legal case it lodged against the interior minister.

The brother leader of the revolution underlined that the strikes, protests, and demonstrations by students in various parts of the Arab homeland mean that the masses are angry and that they now have become the masters of their own destinies. One must spread the gospel of the downfall of individual power, oppression, and exploitation, and should recognise the obvious fact for today and for the future of the world, namely the Jamahiriyah, the Jamahiri system, the Jamahiriyah for all!

On the other hand, the brother leader called for the liberation of the students' potentials and for the removal of political systems, which are fading at universities. Therefore, if a university lecturer behaves like a dictator, he should be removed, and likewise, if a group of lecturers behave like a council of ministers, then they should be removed. I am calling for the liberation of students' potentials, since students are capable of shouldering responsibility at the popular level.

When we call for people's revolution, the brother leader of the revolution said, we mean the freeing of people's potentials because they are the ones likely to secure Arab unity. Unionist action, he said further, so far has been confined to official action. Therefore, it can succeed as easily as it can fail. If we want to achieve Arab unity, we must make it a popular unity. I feel happy whenever I come across such Arab popular groups as trade unions of unions of farmers, historians, or lawyers. Such groups could well attain the stage of a unionist challenge. Then governments, rulers, and illusory borders would become ridiculous and worthless.

The leader said further: When regionalism ends, we will find that unity has become a reality.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi reiterated that the United States is the world's number one terrorist state. It works against human rights and stands against the revolution in Libya because its interests are against the existence of such a revolution.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi pointed out in his address at the 23d session of the Arab Universities Union, that the United States opposes everything that it is against its interests, like the existence of Syria and Iraq, the Arab ownership of oil, Arab unity, and Cuba. Furthermore, it opposes the aspirations of those peoples and countries by the pretext of defending human rights.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi affirmed that the human rights we know and defend are the human being's right to his work and effort and his right to self-determination. Any country that has a salary system is against human rights and is, in fact, carrying out a detrimental action against that most sacred of all human rights.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi announced that Libya's stance toward U.S. arrogance has led to an armed military aggression against us by U.S. imperialism. The Libyan Arab people are the only people who have stood against the United States and Britain and have announced their defiance of those two great powers.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi placed the responsibility for inciting students to bring about Arab unity and unite the dispersed Arab people upon the shoulders of Arab university teachers. He called on them to incite students to carry out a revolution and to take their affairs into their own hands. If you do not want to betray the cause of our future, you should not fear rulers or systems.

Brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great al-Fatih Revolution, said that the Jews dispossessed Arabs from their land in 1948, claiming that they had been there 15,000 years earlier, while they are denying our right to the land, even though we were living there until recently. He said that those who are violating human rights are those who have occupied Palestine and have thrown its people out into refugee camps. They are followed by the U.S. Air Force.

In his speech yesterday, the leader said: We have told you that the United States forced the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union into Palestine; this was one of the conditions for conciliation. The United States is giving weapons to these emigrants as soon as they arrive in Palestine. Moreover, it is the United States, and not the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which is giving them money in billions so that they will settle in Palestine and colonize it. The United States also wants to get rid of the Jews and let them go to hell, confirming that this is human rights the U.S. way.

The leader called for a cultural revolution in Arab universities in which all these facts would be articulated freely. We must pay the price for this position because our fear and disregard of the danger around us would mean death. The brother leader said that this is the age of the masses and of partners rather than hired hands, in which the hiring of a human being's efforts will end and his human identity will be returned to him.

The brother leader of the revolution anounced: The revolution I am advocating does not necessrily have to be with arms, automatic weapons, or guns. I am talking about a cultural revolution, followed by a popular revolution, and then Arab unity in order for us to reach progress and happiness calmly and confidently. These are human rights. This is the age of the masses.

Brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great al-Fatih Revolution, said in his speech to the Arab Universities Union Council that in Islam there is neither Shiite nor Qidyaniyah. There is no such thing as the Hanbali school, the Maliki school, or the Ibadhi school. They are all heresies. Any innovation is a heresy; any heresy is an error, and its perpetrator is in hell. He stressed that these religious groups are man-made creations that resulted from political strife for power in which religion was used, and consequently was deeply affected.

The brother leader added that he who fails in ruling people by other means, employs religion because its a sacred weapon, so that everything becomes permissible for him.

The brother leader of the revolution stressed that without a cultural revolution we could not succeed or progress. We have to set up a center for scientific research and a data center. We have to set up free universities and open universities, and establish the University of Palestine. He warned that all these ideas will remain ink on paper, and a leap in a vacuum unless we start the cultural revolution in order to achieve the people's revolution. If the people's revolution takes place on the bases of a cultural revolution, this will mean that it is a mature and a conscious one.

The brother leader expressed at the end of his speech before the council of the Arab Universities Union yesterday his pleasure at this meeting. He said that this meeting reflects a powerful awakening and the beginning of the Jamahiri awareness, which is widening and spreading toward us quickly in a rousing and dazzling way.

The brother leader of the revolution urged us to make university curricula useful and to insure that they address the new era, the era of the Jamahiri. He added, at last night's meeting of the Arab Universities Union in Banghazi, that our universities and higher schools curricula should not be drawn to provide luxury and useless endeavors. Furthermore, they should not be incompatible with our era; the name of which is the era of the Jamahir.

He added: We should find a new definition for democracy in which people are partners and not wage-earners. A wage is for animals, so until that time the workers will remain wage-earners, like animals. Workers should be partners, not wage-earners.

He added: If we try to attach ourselves to the notion of a wage for workers, we will be trying to prolong the life of exploitative systems by means of a futile process, which will not be successful in the end, anyway. It means, moreover, that we are trying to row against the current and against progress. He added: Consider human rights. They should be defined when they are studied at our universities, and they should be defined not by the definition the United States has been trying to teach us, by deceit and charlatanism, as excuses for interference in the affairs of others.

The brother leader of the revolution stressed that Islam and pan-Arabism are two faces of the same coin. In his speech he said that the Arab nation has no religious or nationalist trends. Its spirit is its religion and it body is its nationalism.

He said the non-Muslim Arab is in an incorrect state. However, this is not his fault but that of his forebearers. He said that we are paying the price of the existence of a Muslim Arab and a Christian one in Lebanon, and we may pay the same price in Egypt, Syria, and Iraq. We may pay the same price in any Arab country where there is a Muslim Arab and a non-Muslim one.

The leader stressed: I am with my brother Christians in Lebanon and I support them as I support the Muslims as they are completely Arab people. That does not deny the incorrectness of anyone of us being a Christian Arab, and the new generation must be aware of this fact so that the story will end [as received]. The current conflict is between people and their souls. Your body is that of an Arab but your soul is an Israeli one, because when you become a Christian you follow one of the prophets of Israel. Jesus was one of the prophets of Israel and was sent especially to the Israelites. So how can you, as an Arab, be concerned about Jesus' message? That would be wrong.

The leader emphasized that a nation's religion is an expression of its nationalism and should be in its own tongue. He said that the existence of non-Muslim Arabs has led to interferences, such as France's interference in Lebanon and U.S. interference in Lebanon. All these countries are interfering under the pretext of protecting Christian Arabs in Lebanon.

He said that the "Green Book" predicts that the age of the masses will come, and that the tale of the religion that brought nations together falls apart in front of national conflict, just as military conquests—such as those of Napoleon and Alexander of Macedonia—fell apart when faced with national conflict.

He added that Marxism has fallen apart in the face of national conflict. Therefore, we must be aware of the nature of the age we are approaching. This is the age of the masses which reject deputization and reject anyone ruling them. They want to rule themselves through people's conferences and people's committees, committees everywhere. Whoever becomes involved in a party becomes a traitor. Why does he become a traitor? Because he will betray his democratic cause and he would betray the issue of people's authority and want to rule the people.

Egypt Agrees to Economic Exchange Committee

LD1802223890 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Safwat al-Sharif, Egyptian information minister, has said that during the first round of the Libyan Arab-Egyptian talks the two sides evaluated the progress made since the signing of the Tubruq declaration last October. The declaration covered facets of cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt in the field of electricity [as heard], road links, communications and telecommunications links between the two countries, cooperation in scientific research and agriculture, and the settlement of Arab Egyptians in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Brother Safwat al-Sharif added in a statement to reporters after the round of talks that the two sides also agreed to form a joint committee including the governors of the central banks in the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt and the directors of other banks with a view to drawing up a permanent plan to facilitate economic exchanges between the two countries. He said in this respect that during this session, the two sides stressed the need to take immediate steps to eliminate the obstacles which are preventing the (?free passage) of goods and agricultural and industrial products between the two countries.

Al-Qadhdhafi Returns From Talks in Egypt

LD1902194490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 19 Feb (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution arrived this evening in the Great Jamahiriyah from the city of al-Ghardaqah which is located on the Red Sea in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Mozambique President Chissano Arrives for Visit

LD1402190590 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of Mozambique, arrived today at noon at al-Qurtabiyah air base on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah which will continue for several days.

Great official and popular receptions were offered to the Mozambican president, and the brother leader of the revolution was at the forefront of those receiving him. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1402190690 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution conferred today at noon in Surt with President Joaquim Alberto Chissano of Mozambique. The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Foreign Trade. The meeting was also attended by the delegation accompanying the Mozambican president.

Debt Rescheduling Agreed Upon

MB1702110490 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has agreed to reschedule Mozambique's debt, which is estimated at $78.5 million, as well as interest payments of about $23 million. Our Libyan correspondent says banks of the two countries will meet in about three months to negotiate the relevant accords.

On Thursday [15 February], Mozambique (?applied) for a $17 million credit to buy some 90,000 metric tons of fuel.

President Joaquim Chissano ended his official visit to Libya today. The visit was made at the invitation of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Cooperation Accords Planned

MB1702111290 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] A Libyan mission will visit Mozambique to discuss and sign a triennial action program as part of the cooperation accord between the two countries. The program covers the scientific, education, information, and cultural fields. Libya has also agreed to take part in the rehabilitation of socioeconomic infrastructures, namely roads, bridges, schools, and hospitals.

Custodio Inacio, our correspondent in Libya, reports that Libya will assist in training Mozambicans in civil engineering, topography, hydraulics, and mechanical engineering, among other fields.

The accords were signed during talks between delegations from the two countries within the framework of President Joaquim Chissano's official visit to Libya.

Visits River Project

LD1702220890 Tripoli JANA in English 1636 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Surt, al-Nawwar [February] 17—JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The President of the People's Republic of Mozambique Joaquim Alberto Chissano and the delegation in his company this afternoon visited the complex of the pipes for the great man-made river at al-Sarir and field of wells of the great man-made river in the area of al-Sari.

The president toured various sections of the industrial units listening to illustrations by the Libyan Arab enginners in charge of the execution of this colossal civilizational project.

The president saw the manufacturing process and materials needed for it which are available locally.

Also President Chissano was briefed on the methods of extending these huge pipes into the ground for the flow of the great man made river through hundreds of kilometers so as to make life and progress in agricultural and industrial fields throughout Great Jamahiryah.

The president was accompanied in his visit by the secretary of the People's Committee for the Strategic Industries, the secretary of the People's Committee for the Execution and Management of the Project of the Great Man-Made River and the secretary of the People's Committee for the Municipality of Surt.

Economic, Scientific Accord Signed

LD1402221790 Tripoli JANA in English 1809 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nawwar [February] 17—JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The minutes of an accord for economic, technical and scientific cooperation were signed this morning in the City of Surt by Great Jamahiryah and the People's Republic of Mozambique.

The minutes were signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for the economy and external trade and on the Mozambican side by Daniel Philip Gabriel, the minister of trade.

The minutes of the accord of cooperation include economic, scientific, cultural, youth and sports fields as well as the revival of the Libyan Arab Mozambican Mixed Commission and the setting up of investment companies in Mozambique.

Also the minutes included exchange of trading in goods and finding them markets in Great Jamahiryah and Mozambique.

Comments on Visit

LD1702153190 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] President Joaquim Alberto Chissano made a statement to JANA at the end of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah, in which he saluted the depth of the ties of friendship between the peoples in the Great Jamahiriyah and Mozambique. He said: This visit has enabled us to exchange political thoughts, and we discussed people's authority and direct democracy which is being implemented in the Great Jamahiriyah, as well as economic issues. We are very satisfied with the results of this visit.

On the presence of French military bases in some African countries, President Chissano said: Africa should be free of nuclear weapons and foreign forces and free of foreign military bases in any state. The president of Mozambique declared his country's condemnation of any foreign intervention in Africa. He ended his statement by saying: I wish the Arab homeland to be stronger and more united and that the Palestinian people will be able to achieve their rights in full and establish their independent state. We express our gratitude for the extreme hospitality and friendship with which the hospitable Libyan people welcomed us.

Conveys Message, Departs

LD1802171490 Tripoli JANA in English 0823 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawwar [February] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The President of the People's Republic of Mozambique Joaquim Alberto Chissano sent a message to the leader of the revolution as he was about to leave the Libyan Arab national airspace. The message reads as follows:

On the occasion of our visit to your wonderful country, I would like to reaffirm the deep feelings of friendship towards the people of Great Jamahiryah and thank you for the welcome extended to us during our visit to your country and the African hospitability which expresses the bonds of solidarity between the peoples of our two countries and which we felt during the visit.

This visit showed us clearly the extent of the big progress and achievements realised by the Green Revolution in all fields which will serve the causes of cooperation and development between our two countries.

With highest greetings and best wishes for good health and happiness and for your great people further progress.

Your brother Alberto Chissano.

Libyan-Sudanese Agricultural Talks Under Way

LD1902212890 Tripoli JANA in English 1822 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, al-Nawwar [February] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Libyan Arab-Sudanese talks started in Khartoum with the secretary of the general corporation for agrarian reform in Great Jamahiriya and Ahmad 'Ali Jinyf, the minister of agriculture, natural resources and livestock wealth from the Sudanese side attending.

The talks discussed the aspects of cooperation between both sisterly countries in the field of agriculture and livestock, to draft a strategic plan for cereal production, develop meat production and achieve integration between both countries in the agricultural and livestock fields.

The minister of agriculture, natural resources and livestock wealth in sisterly Sudan stated that the visit by the Libyan Arab delegation to Sudan came within the framework of continued visits between both countries starting last month during which an agreement on agricultural cooperation was signed.

He asserted that the current talks represent a beginning for serious and truthful cooperation between the two sisterly countries.

Sudan

Junta Member Says Rebels Training in Cuba

EA1802183890 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Feb (SUNA)—Member of the Revolution Command Council and political supervisor of the Equatoria Region Brigadier Dominic Kassiano affirmed the stability of security situation in the region, saying that it had returned to normal after the successful operations implemented by the Armed Forces.

Brig. Kassiano, who is present in the Equatoria currently, said that he came here to receive the individuals of the Armed Force who returned from Zaire recently, adding that he met the group and their leader Brig. Isaiah Paul and describing their morale as high.

Brig. Kassiano has denied the allegations by the outlaws' movement and some foreign radios that the outlaws had shot down a military plane at Miridi town, describing this allegations as baseless.

Brig. Kassiano disclosed that a number of 12,000 persons of the outlaws were currently receiving military training in Cuba.

He said the recent rebel shelling on Juba was a hopeless effort to revenge from equatoria citizens who refused to join the rebels.

SPLA Claims Capture of Government Garrisons

Southern Kurdufan Garrison

EA1602210090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of the New Cush campaign overran the strategic army garrison of Toroji in southern Kurdufan at 0600 hours [600 GMT] on Wednesday, 14 February 1990. The forces of the New Cush are now in complete control of the town and district. [sounds of martial music]

Units of Volcano, Jobal, Meroe, and Al-Himir task forces combined to dislodge the enemy garrison at Toroji in seven days of heavy fighting, after one month of a complete siege. The enemy suffered heavy casualties in men and materials. [sounds of martial music]

In a related development, an enemy convoy composed of 33 vehicles, including four tanks and code-named Usud al-Hajanah, that attempted to rescue Toroji garrison, fell into a deliberate New Cush ambush. The so-called Usud al-Hajanah convoy suffered heavy casualties in men and materials and were forced to retreat, which led to the fall of the garrison.

In the ambush, a huge number of the so-called popular defense forces were killed and wounded. The junta simply distributed guns and ammunition to untrained villagers and pushed them in front to form a human shield intended to absorb initial SPLA fire before the regular army got engaged. All Sudanese must condemn this heartless use of innocent untrained people in the form of the so-called popular defense forces as a human shield.

Bazia Garrison

EA1602210390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Excerpt] In another development, news which reached Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] is that combined elements of Shark, Dalam, Dawn and Minshar battalions captured the enemy garrison of Bazia near Wau in Bahr al-Ghazal on Monday 22nd January 1990. Government militias and police forces around wau were cleared and encirclement of Wau town completed. In these operations, a huge number of militias were killed, including a lieutenant colonel of police. One lorry number 583 and one Land Rover without numbers were destroyed.

And in a separate development the same day, 22 January 1990, an enemy administrative convoy was ambushed between Wau and Busseri. One lorry number 7252 was destroyed and 10 enemy soldiers killed.

And in western Equatoria, "Bright Star" campaign forces Phase Three captured (?Amadi) military post, 20 miles from Maridi, at 1930 on Wednesday 14 February 1990. The enemy suffered heavy casualties in men and materials. [passage omitted]

Troops Kill 30 'Outlaws' in Upper Nile

EA1502123890 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] A responsible source in the Armed Forces has confirmed that the Predatory Eagle Forces in Upper Nile launched a violent attack the day before yesterday, 13 February, on the Sudanese People's Liberation Army camps in Toro, Obai, and Ochi.

The outlaws' losses amounted to 30 killed. The camps were completely destroyed. The Predatory Eagle Forces captured five Kalashnikov guns, seven RPG missiles and large quantities of ammunition, while the scattered remnants of the outlaws fled in disarray.

Army Paper Says 37 Rebels Killed in Kurdufan

AB1702195690 Khartoum SUNA in French 0923 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Feb (SUNA)—The Armed Forces are continuing military mopping up operations in the province of southern Kurdufan in order to maintain security and stability in that region, the daily AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH [THE ARMED FORCES] reports today. During these operations the Armed Forces killed 37 rebels. Twenty-two rifles of various types, one gun, and a large amount of ammunition were seized, the newspaper stated.

Commentary Views Al-Bashir's Visit to Juba

AB1402201090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Listeners, greetings to you all. 'Umar al-Bashir's visit to Juba should be considered as an antipeace visit. He is not interested in peace. In fact, from what he told the army in Juba, it clearly indicates that 'Umar al-Bashir came to Juba in order to prepare for war.

His visit to Juba, listeners, including his remarks, are clear indications that Al-Bashir is committed to war, not peace. He is not interested in peace, despite the fact that they loudly proclaims in Khartoum that the so-called revolution is for the salvation of the Sudanese people. How can they help the Sudanese people? Through war or through negotiations? You, the people, must know that Al-Bashir's regime is a regime that came to mess up the Sudanese people, a regime that is against peace. For us in the SPLA, we have our program for peace, but they have a program for war. That is the difference between us and them, you must know.

In Juba he said that the SPLA was no longer strong. But how about the towns we have recently captured? Does the capture of these towns mean weakness or strength? In fact, nobody can manage to destroy the SPLA. We would like to ask Al-Bashir: Which SPLA is he ready to destroy? Maybe his SPLA found in Khartoum. But regarding our SPLA, not even an Army from another country can destroy it. The SPLA is the strength of the Sudanese people, therefore it is very difficult to destroy the people's strength.

We repeat once again that we, the Sudanese people, must unite to solve our own problems for a better future, but not the future of 'Umar al-Bashir and his henchmen, whose future means fighting to enslave others, to consume the country's wealth. [revolutionary song]

'Mass Arrests' of Political Opponents Noted

EA1502094290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] A periodical published by Arab lawyers, issue number four of January 1990 [periodical not named], has carried an article revealing that the military junta in Khartoum continue with arrests and detentions of political opponents and trade union members.

In the months of December 1989 and January 1990, the junta arrested 89 political activists in their campaign to crack down what they claimed as political opposition. The junta have, for the past months, ruthlessly been carrying out mass arrests to eliminate political opposition.

The 89, mostly professionals—lawyers, medical doctors, and workers of Sudan Railways—have now been distributed to (Chala) prison in western Sudan, Sawakin, in Red Sea Province and Kobar Prison in Khartoum north. In addition to the 89, the junta have also arrested 15 students of the University of Khartoum, whom they consider as hostile to their policy. The names of the 89 professionals, who are now under arrest, will be read during our broadcast in Arabic.

Omdurman Radio Says Ethiopia Protecting Garang

EA1802193090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1135 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Listeners, peace be upon you. Today, we are informing you about the truth and news [as heard]. We are going to inform you about the news of the outlaw, John Garang. Our relatives in the south, today we are informing you about the important issues, so that you think about them on your own.

The outlaw John Garang says he is waging a war to liberate Sudan. Let us ask John Garang: Who does he want to liberate? Liberate Sudan from whom? Let us ask this John Garang: where is he staying? How does he survive? Of course, everybody knows him—he lives in Ethiopia, he lives in a comfortable place, he is being guarded by the Ethiopian military intelligence. They are the ones giving him orders, because the Abyssinians have a problem. That is why they are concerned with John Garang's tribalism. That is why they have given him a heavy guard. Nothing bad will ever happen to him.

Who can create destabilization plans for him? Who is destroying [word indistinct], who is destroying plantations, who is [words indistinct]? Isn't it John Garang? He is the one killing children, he is [word indistinct] people that he wants to liberate Sudan. From whom is he liberating Sudan? Why? He is killing children and [word indistinct], he even kills his own relatives. Is this the person who wants to solve the country's problems?

We are always hearing about his peace plan, which is a lie. Every day he talks about peace, that he wants to make peace, and that he is the one calling for peace, but when people become serious about peace, Garang refuses peace.

He wants trouble. Why? Because sometimes he is with socialists, communists, and sometimes he claims that he is with the Christian religion, sometimes with racism, sometimes he claims to be the opinion of the Sudanese national unity.

Listeners, you know John Garang is with the Jews. These Jews are the ones who are assisting him, arming him, fighting for him, and that is why he listens to them. I ask you: Garang's family, relatives and children—where are they living? They are living in Ethiopia, living in a first-class hotel, they are taken to school by vehicle, they live comfortably, all this is in Ethiopia, and he is also guarded by the military intelligence. What about you? You are suffering, being pursued, dying, torn apart, tortured. With all this, Garang says he wants to liberate the Sudan. How can he liberate Sudan? He kills innocent villagers. We ask you: Where are your children, and how are they surviving? Of course, they are suffering, torn apart. We ask you also whether your children have food? By God, some days you can hardly find food.

When our revolution came, it came with good promises. In fact, the entire world knew the facts about this revolution, because it called for peace. John Garang could not find any better way to deal with that than shooting the (?suffering), the innocent whom he shells with launchers. These launchers are given to him by the same foreign states who feel that Juba should fall. But they will never be able to take it. The Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA], however, has gone beyond the law, and that will always put them on the run, without having a specific place to stay.

All the time they SPLA informs the people that it will shell the country and that people should move out. Why? Whom is it shelling? These people are supposed to be your relatives. These are your relatives, John Garang, why do you shell them? And on the foreign radio stations, they always announce Garang's claims, broadcasting his name, lying that John Garang did this and John Garang did that, etc. But our people are all aware of the truth. Our revolution and our army are always able to fight them and return whatever they loot.

Yugoslav Military Delegation Visits 6 Feb

EA1102184290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoun, 11 Feb (SUNA)—Yesterday, Staff Major General 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, state minister for defense, reviewed here with the visiting Yugolsav military delegation means of cooperation and developing relations between the Sudan and Yugoslavia, especially in the field of training and development of the Armed Forces.

It is worth noting that the Yugoslavia military delegation, which arrived in the country last Tuesday, 6 February, has visited the Air Force, Air Defense and Naval forces in Port Sudan. The delegation will leave the country tomorrow, Monday.

Newspaper Criticizes U.S. Human Rights Policy

JN1902133990 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 19, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad accused the United States of opposing measures of Zionist colonization in the occupied Arab territories only by words.

The daily said that the United States refrained from voting on a decision adopted by the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva on 16th this month that called the Zionist entity to stop the colonization of Soviet emigrants in the occupied Arab territories.

The daily questioned about this flagrant contradiction in the attitude of the United States for it supports rights of the human Jewish [as received] and defend him in his homeland, the Soviet Union, while it ignores the Zionist practices against the Palestinian people represented in settling Soviet Jews in occupied Palestine and evicting the Palestinian people from their lands.

The daily described the contradictory American attitude as a clear political deception for this country talks about human rights and defends it as long as the issue deals with the rights of Soviet Jews but it does not remember or see the rights of the Palestinians which are aggressed upon by the Zionists.

The daily said that this behaviour clearly indicates the clear-cut American bias to the Zionist entity and expounds the contradictory behaviour of the United States.

Paper Blames U.S., USSR for Jewish Influx

JN1802114090 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 18, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad today charged the United States and the Soviet Union with direct responsibility of the influx of large numbers of Soviet Jews for settling in the Zionist entity.

A daily commentary titled "Soviet Jews Emigration" said the new colonization was aimed at expanding the circle of colonization and attaining the Zionist entity's policy of annexation and Judaizing in implementation to the strategy of the racial terrorist Ben-Gurion and other leaders of the Zionist entity.

It pointed out that the Zionist emigration represented over several years one of the main pillars for boosting the Zionist movement which plans to have responsibility of all Jews of the world regardless to their nationality.

The Iraqi daily further added that when the Soviet Union opens the door of emigration for the Jews, it gives the government of Tel Aviv the responsibility it had had of Soviet citizens and at the same time encourages the racial concept of Zionism.

The daily further added that the most dangerous links of this emigration lies in the fact that it contributes to implementing the colonialist oppressive programme of the Zionist entity and ultimately does not minimize Moscow's protest and responsibility of settling the Soviet Jews in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the arrival of immigrants at Lod airport turns them into an instrument in the hand of the terrorist Shamir.

AL-THAWRAH daily further stresed that most of Soviet immigrants leave toward one direction namely: the Lod airport which is a compulsory direction guarded by strict measures in which the United States plays a prominent part.

Concluding, the daily emphasized that emigration of Soviet Jews in such big volume constitutes a big human boost to the rulers of Tel Aviv and injects life to the sick body of the Zionist entity and also revives the Zionist strategy which had faced a historic crisis in having effective influence in several parts of the world.

The daily called for surmounting all forms of current protests to the effective and positive stand that could deal with the emigration issue as the big current danger that jeopardizes pan-Arab security.

Kuwait Foreign Minister Arrives With Delegation

JN1802122490 Baghdad INA in English 1135 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 18, INA—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwait deputy premier and foreign minister, flew in Baghdad today leading a delegation on a few days visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Shaykh Sabah said that during his stay he would convey a verbal message to President Saddam Husayn from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, emir of Kuwait, related to brotherly relations between the two countries and issues of common concern.

He added that he would also conduct talks and consultations with Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister, on the developing bilateral relations between the two countries and events and developments in the region in general.

Concluding his visit to Iraq, Shaykh Sabah will proceed to Amman on a similar visit to Jordan.

Received by President Saddam

JN1802215290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn received this evening Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the fraternal State of Kuwait. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir conveyed to President leader Saddam Husayn greetings and good wishes from his brother, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, emir of the fraternal State of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti foreign minister said his highness the Kuwaiti emir also wished His Excellency President Saddam Husayn continued happiness and strength and that the fraternal relations between the two fraternal peoples would continue to progress and prosper.

President leader Saddam Husayn also asked Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir to convey his greetings to his brother, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, emir of fraternal State of Kuwait, as well as his wishes of good health and happiness for his highness and power and prosperity to the fraternal Kuwaiti people.

During the meeting, they discussed developments in the close relations between the two fraternal countries and issues of common interest. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir was accompanied by Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Foreign Ministry under secretary of the fraternal State of Kuwait. The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the ambassador of the fraternal State of Kuwait in Baghdad.

Confers With 'Aziz

JN1802221590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received today Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the fraternal State of Kuwait. During the meeting, they discussed the fraternal close relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the Arab region. They also reviewed Arab and international issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry under secretary; the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad.

Oil Minister on Talks With Kuwaiti Counterpart

JN1702183590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim, President Saddam's personal envoy to Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, returned to Baghdad this evening. In a statement to INA, he said that he conveyed a written message from President Saddam Husayn to His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries and issues of common concern.

He added that His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah asked him to convey his greetings and wishes to President Saddam Husayn. He pointed out that during his visit to Kuwait, he held talks with 'Ali Khalifah al-'Adhbi, Kuwaiti minister of oil and industry, on the situation on the oil market in light of OPEC's agreement, which took effect at the beginning of this year. Under the agreement, the OPEC countries' oil production is not to exceed 22 million barrels per day. The agreement also defines the quota for each member state. The two ministers also exchanged views on the ministerial meeting to be held by the eight-member ministerial committee in Vienna next March to discuss the situation on the oil market.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Meets With President

JN1602195090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] President Leader Saddam Husayn this evening received Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid conveyed to President leader Saddam Husayn an oral message from Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on bilateral relations and Arab developments.

The meeting was attended by Revolution Command Council members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Meets With 'Aziz

JN1702141090 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations, the situation in the Arab region, and issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry and the Egyptian ambassador to Iraq.

UNIIMOG Commander Departs for Tehran

JN1902125190 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 19, INA—Maj. Gen. Slavco Jovic, commander of the UN Iraq-Iran Military Observers Group (UNIIMOG) entrusted with policing ceasefire between Iraq and Iran left Baghdad this morning, heading for Tehran. He was seen off at the airport by a number of officers of the coordination body with the UNIIMOG. The UNIIMOG commander's visit comes within the frame of his shuttle tours between Baghdad and Tehran to supervise the implementation of ceasefire in the two countries.

Reportage on Reaction to Iraqi-Jordanian Squadron

Security 'Sides' Comment

JN1802060190 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Israel is following with great interest information that the Iraqi and Jordanian Air Forces recently have bolstered cooperation.

This is what specialized security sides said last night in response to the revelation by a ranking Jordanian source yesterday afternoon that a joint Jordanian-Iraqi air squadron recently was formed to train the pilots of the two countries.

The specialized security sides believe one cannot yet consider the cooperation between the Iraqi and Jordanian Air Forces a long term change in the military situation at our eastern borders. There is no doubt, however, that Israel must continue to follow the developments on the other side of the border with great attention and alertness.

It is noteworthy here Israel had objected strongly to Jordan a few weeks ago for having allowed Iraqi war planes to conduct reconnaissance sorties along the Jordanian-Israeli border. The Israeli objection led to these Iraqi air sorties ceasing.

No 'Great Surprise'

TA1802065690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Feb 90 p 1

[By Arab affairs correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Reports the Iraqi and Jordanian Air Forces intend to set up a joint fighter plane squadron does not come as a great surprise to the Israeli defense establishment.

Israel has been following the tightening security and military links between Iraq and Jordan with some concern for a long time. Israeli sources pointed out, however, the very fact Jordan has made no attempt to conceal its cooperation with Iraq, and has even announced it to the media, was evidence of a change in the Jordanian regime's attitude toward the Israeli position, which always has taken a severe view of any Iraqi military activity within Jordanian territory.

Security sources claimed there is no significance to the type of planes that will be incorporated in the two countries' joint squadron. The significant fact is joint aerial activity at the highest operational level will be taking place. The squadron apparently will not consist of Mirage-2000 models, as reported by the Jordanian official, but of older planes.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 18 February in a report by Smadar Peri, Arye Egozi, and Dani Sade on pages 1 and 11 adds: "Israeli sources stressed Iraq and Jordan do not possess Mirage-2000 jets, and therefore, one can assume the joint squadron will consist of Mirage F-1's, which can be found in the air forces of both countries."]

Israeli elements said one should not forget the Jordanian Air Force conducts joint maneuvers with U.S. Air Force planes, through which the Jordanian pilots gain much knowledge and learn sophisticated battle techniques. As the level of aerial cooperation between Jordan and Iraq becomes greater, more and more information and state-of-the-art Western military knowledge will fall into the hands of Iraqi Air Force pilots.

During previous joint maneuvers with the United States, Jordanian pilots have conducted flights in operational formations U.S. pilots planned for them. The Jordanian Air Force has expressed great satisfaction with the advantages of taking part in these joint maneuvers.

Another aspect regarded with much concern by Israeli sources is Jordan's readiness to allow Iraqi Air Force planes to be stationed permanently at Jordanian Air Force bases on Jordanian territory. Jordan thus is breaking one of its traditional understandings with Israel, which stipulates Jordan never would voluntarily permit foreign military forces to operate on its territory.

Jordan's behavior is even worse than that, because it not only has permitted the Iraqi Air Force to make use of its bases, but it also permits the Iraqi fighter planes to fly near the border with Israel along the Jordan River. The Iraqi pilots use these flights to take aerial photographs of the West Bank.

Israel conveyed a severe protest to Jordan several weeks ago regarding the flights of Iraqi fighter planes near the border. The flights later were stopped.

Israeli security sources estimated the aerial cooperation between Jordan and Iraq does not yet constitute a far-reaching change in the military situation on our eastern border, but there is no doubt developments across the border, which under certain conditions could engender the formation of an eastern front, must be carefully monitored. [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff Shomron Comments

TA1802091990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, said Jordan has no reason to feel threatened by Israel.

There therefore is no reason for them to set up a joint front with Syria or a joint squadron with Iraq, Gen. Shomron said. He said Israel is not concerned about establishment of the squadron, and it still is too early to say whether the move indicates a change in Jordanian policy.

Our correspondent Nati Silberman reports the chief of staff addressed Druze students in 'Akko.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 18 February quotes Gen. Shomron saying on the same occasion: "Syria cannot continue viewing the USSR as a factor that will continue to support it in all circumstances. Syria is considering the fact Moscow wants a political solution in the region. The Syrians get the message."]

Rabin: No Need To 'Worry'

TA1802185390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz on 18 February at the Labor Party Tel Aviv Branch—recorded]

[Text] [Rabin] The economic situation in Jordan has become somewhat more difficult. The recent parliamentary elections proven the radical Islamic element's strength. At the same time, voices were heard in Israel saying Jordan is the Palestinians' homeland. So both internal factors and the fear some Israelis may have devious intentions provided a sufficient background for the accelerated cooperation between Arab countries. We now are witnessing the manifestations of this cooperation.

We did not learn about the establishment of a joint squadron from the media. This squadron is in its initial stages. The story about the Mirage-2000 is irrelevant, because neither Iraq nor Jordan currently have this aircraft. All these countries have is the Mirage F-1.

When the squadron is established—with an Iraqi budget—it will be located in Iraq, and it will help the Jordanians save money, mainly in flight hours and everything related to infrastructure. This is another phase in the development of their cooperation. Although it reflects a certain direction, it should not significantly worry Israel at this point.

[Raz] You mentioned the fact talk in Israel about Jordan's being a Palestinian homeland may have accelerated this process.

[Rabin] Whether it was a mere pretext or a genuine apprehension felt in Jordan, I have no doubt this was one of the reasons. The first and foremost reason, however, was Jordan's desire to lean on a sympathetic Arab element and derive support on both internal problems and against factors jeopardizing Jordan from the outside.

[Raz] Minister Rabin, do you see any correlation between the government's life expectancy and Minister Sharon's resignation?

[Rabin] I can see a connection between the unity government's life expectancy and taking the utmost advantage of the chance to promote peace. This is the only correlation I see between the unity government's survival and any other topic. The first and foremost such topic is the option to exhaust all chances to pursue implementation of the Israeli Government's peace initiative on the basis of Secretary Baker's five points, to start the path along the corridor of a dialogue between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Cairo.

[Reporting on Rabin's remarks in the same forum, Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 18 February adds: "Minister Rabin pointed out that, if the unity government disbands, a narrow-based government need not follow. The Alignment will have the option either of moving to the opposition or going to elections, Rabin said, and all those who consider only one alternative are making a mistake."]

Message to Jordan via U.S.

TA1902093490 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Feb 90 p 1

[By Ilan Kfir and Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] In the wake of the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Iraqi squadron, Israel relayed a message to Jordan through the United States saying it takes a grave view of Jordan's plans to build a joint military power with Iraq.

Israeli elements estimate the operational cooperation between the Jordanian and Iraqi Air Forces merely is the first stage in a more comprehensive military growth plan.

Along with the diplomatic message, Israel relayed a direct message to Jordan through Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who stated Israel is monitoring the Jordanian-Iraqi military cooperation.

A senior military source said yesterday the source of concern is not the establishment of the squadron, but rather the cooperation between Jordan and Iraq. "What is worrying is the possibility a military alliance, which is liable to force us to confront large army forces in the future, is being set up against us. This is a potentially serious threat."

Rabin: 'Keep Watch' on Events

TA2002124090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] We heard Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, say Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the committee today Israel would not be able to sit idly by if Iraqi military forces are deployed in Jordan. The committee's session has ended. The defense minister during the session addressed for a long time the dangers of a consolidation on the eastern front. Ze'ev Kohen reports from the Knesset:

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said after leaving the committee meeting there is a potential for the Arab world consolidating, with the cement holding them together being their opposition to immigration by Soviet Jewry. At this stage, the defense minister does not view Syria as part of the eastern front.

[Begin Rabin recording] At this stage, I do not see it because there is no eastern front—at least no significant eastern front—without Syria. As is known, there is bad blood between Iraq and Syria due to Syria's support for Iran in the toughest, longest, and bloodiest war the Middle East has known in the 20th Century. That is why there is a basis for Iraqi-Jordanian cooperation. I suppose at this stage, internally and externally, it is more defensive backing for Jordan. We must, however, remain on guard to keep watch on events and make sure Jordan's territory is not used as a base for an Iraqi presence or activity. [end recording]

Israel must remain on guard; that is the main point made by the defense minister at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Sharon Presents Resignation Formally to Cabinet

TA1802080890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon presented his resignation from the Cabinet 30 minutes ago and left the Cabinet meeting. The resignation will go into effect Tuesday. With initial details on the Cabinet meeting, here is our correspondent Natan Gutman at the Prime Minister's Office:

Minister Ari'el Sharon's participation in his last Cabinet meeting lasted exactly five minutes. At the outset of the meeting, Sharon presented a letter to the prime minister in which he said he resigns from the Cabinet. The letter includes the passage from Sharon's speech to the Likud Central Committee in which he explains the reasons for his action. The letter is two pages long. Sharon's resignation, which now is formal, will take effect in 48 hours; that is, at 0900 Tuesday.

Leaving the Prime Minister's Office after 13 years as a minister, Sharon said his farewells to several aides and drivers, who shook hands with him. He then drove to his office. He told journalists he explained to the prime minister the reasons for his resignation, and he was leaving not to improve his economic situation but to fight for his way in the movement. Sharon, still industrial and trade minister, will conduct a press conference this afternoon in his Jerusalem office to explain his next moves.

Sharon Explains Political Plan, Future Steps

TA1802174190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon this afternoon outlined his political plan, which he devised upon retiring from the Cabinet.

In a news conference in Jerusalem he said the main points of his plan are as follows: The walls dividing Israel and Jordan should be removed, and transit points for civilians of both countries should be opened; a solution of the refugee problem should begin to take shape through establishment of housing projects on the outskirts of towns; a Jordanian commitment not to allow foreign armies into its territory should be obtained; terrorism and violence should be eradicated; and it should be demanded the terrorist organizations disband.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports Minister Sharon noted he will operate in the framework of the Likud. He reiterated his assertion the Inner Cabinet is paralyzed, and that his party heads steal votes and attempt to impose oligarchy, as proven last week in the Likud Central Committee convention.

Sharon assumed he would be invited to join the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, in the framework of which he will act. He furthermore repeated his statement he will run for the position of prime minister.

Cabinet Discusses Immigration, German Unity

TA1802133490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Feb 90

[By political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The issue of German reunification was discussed briefly in today's Cabinet session.

Minister Roni Milo stated the Cabinet should adopt an unequivocal resolution against the reunification of the Germanys. Minister Milo said the government of the Jewish state must take a clear position against German reunification because of the terrible experience of our history.

On the issue of German reunification, we will note the Foreign Ministry cable which has reached us. The cable, sent to Israeli embassies around the world on 14 February, conveys Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' position, which he expressed during a meeting with the Jewish National Fund.

The gist of this position is if West Germany's democratic tradition prevails in its eastern part as well, Israel has no reason to oppose reunification of the two Germanys. The cable may have been the result of reports saying the foreign minister had not told his West German hosts he supports German unity.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 18 February reports there are "contradictory reports about whether Foreign Minister Moshe Arens supports or opposes the unification of Germany." "Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports the cable says the Foreign Ministry does not believe there is any danger for Israel from the unification of Germany if the united Germany is a democracy which fully acknowledges its responsibility for the Jewish people. This position was expressed six days ago by the foreign minister in a speech to a delegation of Canadian Jews."]

For the most part, the Cabinet meeting dealt with immigration and anti-Semitism around the world. The ministers heard extensive reports on these issues. The debate on immigration continues.

Despite having been cleared by the attorney general, Minister 'Ezer Weizman still is only a Cabinet—not an Inner Cabinet—minister. After the meeting, we heard divergent opinions on the issue. Likud elements said: The attorney general's ruling says the dismissal was legal, and therefore there is no reason to reinstate him to the Inner Cabinet. Alignment ministers, on the other hand, said: Minister Weizman has been acquitted. Although no unequivocal demand to reinstate him to the Inner Cabinet has been heard yet, we heard Minister Shim'on Peres' remarks on the subject:

[Begin recording] [Peres] I did not think Minister Weizman should have been dismissed from the Inner Cabinet. In my opinion, this entire move was erroneous; I have not changed my mind on this, nor am I changing it now.

[Gutman] What is your opinion of the attorney general's remarks that politically and publicly, the prime minister's action was appropriate?

[Peres] It is only natural the attorney general's authority should lie solely in the legal sphere. Where politics are concerned, the decisions should be left to the political ranks. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 18 February adds when Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir left the Cabinet meeting, he referred to the Weizman affair and the calls to reappoint him to the Inner Cabinet, saying there is no way he will return. "If you read the attorney general's explanations thoroughly, you will reach the conclusion that I was right. The facts on which I based myself are correct."]

Arens on Mandate for Talks, German Unity

TA1702195490 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in Tel Aviv studio by anchorman David Witzthum and political correspondent Yig'al Goren—live]

[Text] [Goren] Good evening, Minister Arens.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Goren] Minister Arens, you are leaving on an official visit to Mexico tonight. On your way back home, you may meet with Secretary Baker in Washington. Has such a meeting been arranged yet?

[Arens] The meeting has not yet been arranged. It may indeed take place on my way back from Mexico.

[Goren] Minister Arens, are you aware of the fact the Alignment leaders—Peres and Rabin—are saying they and the prime minister have agreed you have in fact no mandate to give Secretary Baker any negative replies regarding the inclusion of deportees and East Jerusalem Arabs?

[Arens] In the meeting with Mr. Baker—if it does take place—I can present only those issues that have been decided on in the Cabinet and the Inner Cabinet.

[Goren] What is the news with—or, rather, what is the current situation—on the possible inclusion of deportees and East Jerusalem representatives?

[Arens] There is no news. Neither the Cabinet nor the Inner Cabinet have adopted any resolutions beyond what several months ago had been endorsed.

[Witzthum] Perhaps we now could discuss the issue of European sanctions. You have just returned from Germany, where this issue of exacerbated European sanctions against Israel as a result of its policy in the territories—as the Europeans have defined it—must have been raised. Is there any news regarding this? Has Germany promised to help, for instance?

[Arens] Yes, I traveled to Bonn specifically to present this issue. As you said, the EC, the European Parliament, and the EC Commission have decided on economic sanctions against the Israeli Government and the State of Israel. I told Foreign Minister Genscher and Chancellor Kohl it is inconceivable, in the wake of the EC punitive measures, that the State of Israel, which had lost thousands of its sons in the cause of defense and independence, should surrender and take steps contrasting with its interests. I further said this attitude harms the peace process and serves only to encourage the most radical positions in the Arab world. I was glad to hear them say they agree with me, they object to the sanctions, and that they promise to take action among the EC countries against these sanctions.

[Witzthum] Did they say what action they will take? What practical steps against the sanctions will they take?

[Arens] Next Tuesday, at the meeting of the EC foreign ministers, I expect Minister Genscher to bring up this position. He told me he hopes he will not be alone in expressing this stance.

[Witzthum] Let us now address the central topic of this program: German reunification and Israel's reaction to it. Several ministers, who are quoted anonymously in MA'ARIV, and Minister Gad Ya'aqobi have expressed amazement at the fact you issued a statement on the reunification of the Germanys without any prior discussion of or a resolution on this issue in the Cabinet and the Inner Cabinet. Some others accused you of shaming the memory of the holocaust and its victims. What have you to say on this issue?

[Arens] I have issued no statement supporting reunification. In my opinion, there is no room for such a stance.

[Witzthum] But reports from Germany claimed you indeed had supported it. Information to this effect was contained in a Bonn Foreign Ministry communique.

[Arens] Well, then, it is not true. The unification is about to take place...

[Witzthum, interrupting] Do you then deny the German report? Do you mean you do not support German reunification?

[Arens] I will tell you in a minute. In my opinion, Israel should not take sides on this issue. The reunification is gradually materializing. Some believe it will become a fact within a few months; others say the process will be more gradual and take a year or two. In any event, we probably will see a reunited Germany combining West Germany's 60 million inhabitants with East Germany's 16 million.

What remains to be seen is what our expectations of this process are. These cannot be dissociated from our memories, from the atrocities committed during the war by the united Germany. We have to think of the future, too, however. I indeed have said I hope the same democratic tradition that was adopted and took root in Germany during the last 40 years—and I trust in this tradition and in Germany's institutions—will remain in the reunited Germany.

[Witzthum] Minister Moshe Arens, Yig'al Goren, thank you very much.

Arens Leaves for Mexico, 'May' Meet Baker

TA1702183490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens is leaving on a five-day visit to Mexico tonight. He will meet with the Mexican president and foreign minister. The foreign minister's entourage includes two professors, who will conduct talks on the development of scientific cooperation between the two countries.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports, so far, no meeting in Washington has been set between the foreign minister and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker after Mr. Arens concludes his visit to Mexico. A Foreign Ministry source said tonight the meeting may be arranged during Minister Arens' stay in Mexico.

Rabin on 'Complete Failure' of U.S.-PLO Talks

TA1902090790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Feb 90 p 1

[ITIM Report]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv—The Americans have conceded, though not openly, that their talks with the PLO have been a complete failure, Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told a meeting of the Central District of the Labour Party here last night.

"The Americans failed and learned with whom it is possible to deal," Rabin said. He recommended that those Israelis who dream of direct negotiations with the PLO learn a lesson from this.

The Egyptians, Rabin added, are better able to bring pressure to bear on the Palestinians—both inside and outside the territories—and have already achieved several agreements with them.

"We are close to an agreement," Rabin said. "But before Egypt commits itself to the Americans, it thinks three times." Egypt's past commitments to both the U.S. and Israel, he noted, have withstood the test of time. He pointed to the disengagement of forces agreement in Sinai and to the Camp David accords. [passage omitted]

Likud, Tehiya Reject Baker Remark on Sharon

TA1902123490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction caucus has expressed its resentment over remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that Minister Sharon's resignation will make advancing the peace process easier.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports the faction supports Knesset Member Hayim Corfu, who noted the Washington administration has no business grading ministers in the Israeli Government and determining their quality and their contribution to the government's operations.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports the Tehiya Knesset faction has demanded the prime minister summon the U.S. ambassador in Israel and through him, deliver a reprimand to Baker. Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen has said Baker's remarks constitute interference in the internal issues of an independent and sovereign state.

Liberals Seek To Reestablish Party; Deny 'Rift'

TA1902203490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Avraham Sharir said the five MK's—Moda'i, Goldstein, Grupper, Goldberg, and himself—have decided to reestablish the Liberal Party.

Sharir said the unification of the Liberal Party and Herut did not fulfill expectations, and the agreement was not successful. The Likud is a party that has lost all its backing, as well as its grandeur and greatness. He and his comrades do not regard their step as a rift in the Likud, Sharir said, but rather a return to the situation that prevailed on the eve of the agreement to unify the Likud.

When asked whether he and his colleagues would support Prime Shamir automatically, Sharir replied that every case would be judged on its own merit because the dream of establishing a large party having grandeur and greatness had not come true.

Our correspondent reported forming a faction within the framework of the Likud needs the agreement of the party's leadership. A senior minister already said today such agreement would not be forthcoming. Members of the Likud caucus said the five men are burying their political future.

Moda'i Member of New Liberal Knesset Faction

TA1902153490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Five Liberal Knesset members [MK's] of the Likud have announced the establishment of a new faction.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports they officially have applied to the Knesset House Committee for recognition as a faction named the Party for the Advancement of the Liberal Ideology in Israel [Hamiflaga Leqidum Hara'ayon Haliberali Beyisra'el].

In their letter of application, the five say the faction is glad to be part of the Likud Knesset faction. MK Pinhas Goldstein, however, says the letter is a mere formality, and that this move in effect is an attempt to reestablish the Liberal Party, which was assimilated by the Herut movement. The members of the faction are Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, and MK's Pinhas Goldstein, Pesah Grupper, Avraham Sharir, and Yosef Goldberg. MK Goldstein says the faction is not being established for personal reasons, but because of the derisive attitude of and the breach of promises and agreements by the Likud leadership. The members of the new faction expect other former members of the Liberal Party to join them, with their ranks ultimately reaching 10.

Sharon 'Regrets' Moda'i Decision on New Faction

TA2002122390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Knesset Member [MK] Ari'el Sharon, one of the leaders of the constraints camp, said he regrets Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i's decision, and that Moda'i had not consulted with him before establishing a separate faction in the Likud.

[Begin Sharon recording] I regret this step. It is clear to me, however, that this step resulted—just like the destabilization of the security situation in the State of Israel and the safety of Jewish lives, and just like the deterioration in the political process and the terrible state of affairs in which Jerusalem has become a divided city .... [changes thought] All these have regretably become facts because of one reason—a lack of leadership. If there was any leadership, these things would not have occurred. [end recording]

What do they say in the Labor Party? Mikha Harish, secretary general of the Labor Party, stated the establishment of a separate faction in the Likud expedites the disintegration of that party.

[Begin Harish recording] There are two facts that can be determined. One fact is that with this step, the Likud ceases to be the largest faction in the Knesset. This is significant because, if a coalition crisis were to transpire as a result of the peace process, there is not a shadow of a doubt when it comes to establishing a new government, the largest faction almost is automatically entrusted with the job, even though it is not the law.

The second point, which I consider more important, is the disintegration process of the Likud, which dramatically was shown in the Likud's style and the undemocratic nature of its Central Committee, now has taken on accelerated momentum. This is a crumbling party whose future is in doubt. [end recording]

MK Ari'el Sharon this morning bade farewell to the employees of the Industry and Trade Ministry, which he has headed for the past five and a half years. [passage omitted]

Sicarii Threaten To Kill Shamir During Service

TA2002092290 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Feb 90 p 3

[By the Jerusalem correspondent]

[Text] Are the Sicarii going to assassinate Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during the memorial service for Avraham Stern, the late leader of the Stern group?

Noah Zvuluni, the DAVAR correspondent in Jerusalem, got a phone call last night at home. On the other end of the line was a man who introduced himself as Ilan. He said that the Sicarii were going to assassinate Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during the memorial service for Avraham Stern, scheduled for today in Tel Aviv.

It was not clear from the telephone conversation whether the Sicarii were definitely planning some action in the wake of Ari'el Sharon's resignation from the government using the argument that, since the establishment of the state, Israel's situation had never been worse, or whether this was just a crank call.

FRG, France, Spain Expand Ties Despite EC

TA2002081590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Here is welcome news from our science affairs correspondent. Israel's scientific ties with the EC are being strengthened and expanded. Why is it important to point out this fact? Because there is a European Parliament decision to suspend scientific relations. The above shows the resolution has no significance, our correspondent Meron Tzur says:

Germany, France, and Spain, the leading EC countries, have completely ignored the European Parliament's decision and are expanding scientific relations with Israel. This was revealed through a series of seminars, meetings, and bilateral visits by scientists and senior officials from these countries to Israel.

In the FRG, a seminar on matter, in which 20 scientists from both countries participated, recently was conducted. The joint plan for 10 new research projects will cost 20 million marks annually, and might begin as soon as March. The head of the Bundestag's budgetary committee and the director general of the FRG's Education and Science Ministry will come to Israel to finalize the plan.

A high-level Spanish delegation headed by the minister for education and science also will come to Israel next month to finalize Israeli-Spanish scientific cooperation in the wake of last October's visit to Spain by Science and Technology Minister 'Ezer Weizman and his director general, Arye Shumer.

France continues to maintain ongoing scientific relations with Israel, and during a recent visit by computer scientists to Israel, projects worth $1 million annually were finalized.

To conclude, the European Parliament's decision to suspend scientific relations with Israel has no real impact as (John Morgan), the EC ambassador in Israel, said in a lecture several days ago at Haifa University.

Cairo Reports Soviet Jews Demonstrate in Israel

NC1802212290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Large numbers of Soviet Jewish immigrants today demonstrated for the first time in Israel to protest the deterioration in their standard of living. They chanted slogans saying that their needs have not been met since they arrived in Israel.

No Direct Flights From USSR

TA2002153790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] A senior official dealing with aliyah has said the chances of direct flights from the Soviet Union—at least in the near future—are nil.

The source added, however, that Israel is taking measures to make sure all Jews who wish to leave the USSR will arrive in Israel. The senior official believes approximately one-third of the Soviet Union's Jewish community will leave it within the next decade. [Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 20 February cites the same source as saying "the Soviet Jews' fear of pogroms increases the pace of aliyah. We are unable to calm the Soviet Jews."]

In the next few months, the number of Jews departing the Soviet Union for Israel will rise from approximately 2,000 per month to between 6,000 and 7,000. At the moment, 20,000 Soviet Jews are awaiting departure. They all hold exit permits. The above was reported by Jewish Agency Chairman Simha Dinitz during a meeting of the joint body, which incorporates representatives of the Jewish Agency and the government.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports the prime minister, the vice prime minister, the construction and housing minister, and the immigrant absorption minister reported to the joint body, but no debate was conducted, and no decisions were made. Minister Rafi Edri complained the prime minister declined to conduct a debate.

Shomron on Soldier Suicides, IDF Motivation

TA1802150390 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 Feb 90 p 14

[By Daniyel Aviv]

[Text] The number of suicides in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is lower than in most armies in countries where there is no compulsory draft, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron said during a rally of teachers and educators conducted last week in the Jerusalem City Council building.

According to the chief of staff, the IDF is trying to draw lessons from recent suicide cases. Among other things, Shomron said, commanding officers are taught how to detect symptoms of distress in soldiers.

The chief of staff disclosed recent data about the degree of motivation among soldiers. According to this data, in 1989, 90 percent of the soldiers said they were willing to train as officers, while in 1984 only 78 percent were willing to volunteer.

Moreover, 87 percent of the draftees in 1989 wanted to enlist in combat units, compared to only 57 percent in 1984.

To the question "Are you proud to enlist in the Army?" 89 percent said yes in 1989 compared with 84 percent five years ago.

Air Force Raids 'Terrorist' Target in Lebanon

TA1602201490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Tonight the Air Force attacked a terrorist target in al-Hajjah, south of Sidon. The target was hit, and all our planes returned safely to base. The target served as a coordination site and exit point for joint attacks by Amal and terrorist organizations.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe cites Israeli security sources as saying growing cooperation has been noted recently between Amal leaders and Palestinian organizations that send squads to perpetrate attacks in the security zone and inside Israel. The sources warned that while Israel does not wish a confrontation with Amal, Israel will not be able to remain inactive and will be obliged to react if this process continues.

Soldier, 3 Arabs Wounded in Gaza; Schools Closed

TA1702204690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly wounded in Gaza today by a stone that hit his head. He was treated and sent back to his unit.

In another case, a bottle containing acid was hurled at an IDF patrol in Gaza. The bottle shattered, but no one was hurt, and no damage was caused.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports the Civil Administration today closed five Gaza schools in the wake of disturbances.

Local disturbances were reported today in the Gaza Strip, and it has been learned three Arabs were wounded.

All Planes Return After Raid on Hawatimah Base

TA1902155990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1538 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Israeli Air Force [IAF] planes attacked terrorist targets in Kafr Jarrah east of Sidon this afternoon.

The targets were hit, and all planes returned safely to base. Our military affairs correspondent 'Amos Har'el reports: IAF planes attacked terrorist targets in the Sidon area for the second time in three days. This time the site of the attack was near Kafr Jarrah, east of the city. The bombed targets served as organizational bases for launching attacks and belonged to Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The terror squad, of which one member was killed while three others were caught north of Beaufort Castle on 14 February, belonged to this organization.

News agencies in Sidon announced two bases were bombed. Three fatalities so far have been reported. As earlier said, all planes safely returned.

2 Nepalese UNIFIL Soldiers Killed in Lebanon

TA2002071890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Two UN soldiers from Nepal were killed and seven others wounded in southern Lebanon before dawn when a gas canister exploded at their post.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports the canisters were hit by a rocket during a fire exchange between the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and a terrorist squad.

Senior officers from UNIFIL [UN Interim Forces in Lebanon], the SLA, and the Israel Defense Forces now are investigating the incident's circumstances.

UN Blames SLA for Deaths

TA2002154090 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Two UN soldiers were killed and six [as heard] others wounded in exchanges of fire between the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and terrorists in the western sector of southern Lebanon.

The United Nations declared it regards the SLA responsible for the deaths.

Update on Incidents in Territories 19 Feb

TA2002092590

[Editorial report] In a report by Joel Greenberg and news agencies on page 10, THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 20 February writes: "In clashes with troops yesterday in the Gaza Strip, 12 people were wounded, including a 5-year-old girl hit in the face by a rubber-coated steel marble, hospital officials said. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] confirmed three casualties.

"In the West Bank, soldiers in Nabulus shot a man in the leg and broke the hand of another in a clash with protesters, Palestinians said. The IDF had no reports of casualties. Palestinians also reported clashes and three people wounded during an IDF raid at Yattah, near Hebron.

"The Gaza military court sentenced Jabir Majdalawi, 19, of the Jabalyah refugee camp, to 10 years in prison for heading a 'strike force,' hurling petrol bombs at IDF patrols, violently interrogating Palestinians he suspected of cooperating with the authorities, and writing nationalist graffiti."

Oren Kohen and Mikhal Qedem write on page 6 of HADASHOT in Hebrew on 20 February that "due to numerous stonethrowing incidents, the IDF closed a school in Janin until further notice." In the Gaza Strip, on the other hand, "five schools in Gaza and one in the Jabalyah refugee camp that had been closed a month ago due to disturbances reopened yesterday by order of the Civil Administration."

Quoting Palestinian sources, Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin write on page A2 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 20 February that "four houses of two men wanted by the security forces and those of two detainees were sealed up yesterday in the casbah of Nabulus."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 20 February reports that "in the Gaza Strip an explosive charge went off as an Army patrol passed the village of Bani Suhaylah. Nobody was injured and there was no damage. The explosive was hidden in a pipe and appeared to be electronically detonated. Army troops searched the area. In East Jerusalem, two more cars have been torched."

Jordan, Iraq Reportedly Form Joint Air Squadron

JN1702124490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordan and Iraq have recently formed a joint air squadron called the pan-Arab squadron. This was confirmed to our radio by a ranking Jordanian official, who said the squadron is part of the close cooperation that exists between Jordan and Iraq—two members of the Arab Cooperation Council, which also comprises Egypt and North Yemen.

The source did not give details about the formation of the squadron in terms of numbers and equipment. Informed sources believe that the squadron will enable Jordanian pilots to avoid reducing the number of their training hours; this had been the case recently for financial reasons arising from the country's economic crisis.

The Jordanian-Iraqi initiative comes at a time when Jordan and the Arabs are facing the danger of intensive Jewish emigration to Israel and in the wake of statements that Jordan is the solution. Amman believes that the Arab countries do not need new treaties but new methods of cooperation within the framework of the Arab League Charter and the Collective Defense Pact.

In 1988, the Jordanian monarch proposed to some Arab leaders the idea of forming an Arab legion of three divisions to confront any danger to any part of the Arab nation.

Squadron Seen as First Step

JN1802093190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Feb 90 p 20

["The Last Stop" column by Mu'nis al-Razzaz: "The Pan-Arab Squadron Is a First Step"]

[Text] The United States did not vote on a resolution asking Israel not to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied Palestinian territories. This action did not surprise us; nonetheless, it gives us writers the chance to express our anger at U.S. foreign policy.

However, we have been pouring out our ire over U.S. policy for 40 years with no result. We curse American policy while very wealthy Arab capitalists are depositing their money in U.S. banks. We express our fury over the United States every day while U.S. interests are preserved and maintained. What is the use of daily criticism of U.S. policies if we do not translate this criticism into a practical policy that will hurt the U.S. Administration and make it feel that it is paying the price of its bias?

Calling on the world to stop Jewish immigration to Israel is useless. Arab unity is the real response to this immigration. No doubt that forming a united pan-Arab Jordanian-Iraqi squadron is a first step down the path of forming a unified Arab corps. This is the important idea Jordan has called for.

Forming the unified Arab corps is a first step down the path of establishing Arab military unity. If we do not hurry up and start forming a unified military Arab force, we will not be able to confront the Zionist ambitions supported by U.S. aid.

Israel took sole control of Lebanon in 1982. Despite the valiant popular opposition, the invading forces reached Beirut. What prevents Israel from repeating what it did in 1982?

A united eastern front could prevent it. Arming and training the people could prevent it. The United States will not. This is what people betting on the United States must understand.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Favors Arab Talks

JN1902202690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Amman today on a visit of several days to Jordan. He spoke to journalists. More details in the following report:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Upon his arrival at Amman airport, Shaykh Sabah spoke to journalists about his visit to Jordan:

[Shaykh Sabah] I am glad to make this visit and meet with His Majesty King Husayn. It honors me to meet and speak with him. I have an oral message from his highness the amir to His Majesty King Husayn. During my stay here, I will discuss with my colleague brother Marwan al-Qasim bilateral relations, which are very good. We want to develop these relations even further. We also will discuss Arab issues in general and international developments in particular.

[Reporter] Asked about Kuwait's position on the call for an Arab summit in light of the Soviet Jews' immigration to occupied Palestine, Shaykh Sabah said:

[Shaykh Sabah] I think we really need a summit to discuss new developments affecting the Arab world. I believe such a summit will provide a very important opportunity for the Arab leaders to discuss the impact of this immigration and its threat to the entire Arab world, not only to Jordan, Syria, or any other individual Arab country. The threat, in fact, does not concern only Kuwait or the Gulf states. I said in the past an Arab summit should be convened to discuss this subject, which is of concern not only to Kuwait, but also to the whole Arab nation. As you know, Arab relations with the Soviet Union, the United States, or the Eastern and Western countries should be reassessed. [end recording]

Meets King Husayn

JN1902203290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Amman, 19 Feb (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received at the al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who conveyed to his majesty a message from his brother the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah. The message includes his highness's greetings to His Majesty King Husayn and his appreciation of Jordan's pan-Arab role.

They discussed the need for Arab consultation and coordination on the highest level in light of Arab and international developments and their impact on the present and future of the Arab nation.

His Majesty King Husayn asked Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to convey his greetings and those of the Jordanian people to his highness the amir and the people of the fraternal State of Kuwait. He also expressed his great appreciation of the role Kuwait is playing in consolidating consultations and focusing unified Arab positions on overall pan-Arab issues and international developments.

The meeting, which was adjourned for a luncheon hosted by His Majesty King Husayn, was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the political adviser to his majesty the king, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Sulayman al-Shahin, under secretary of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman also attended.

UN Official Discusses Territories With King

JN1902204090 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1442 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Amman, 19 Feb, (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court at noon today Francis Blanchard, special adviser to the UN secretary general for economic development in the occupied Palestinian land. He explained to his majesty the task assigned him by the UN chief and its humanitarian and developmental aspects.

Mr. Blanchard informed his majesty of the importance the United Nations attaches to his mission, especially since it is being carried out in the face of open Israeli opposition. His role will be to coordinate development and humanitarian projects in the occupied Palestinian land. The UN official added he will need all the cooperation he can get given Israeli opposition to his mission.

His majesty the king expressed Jordan's support for his noble task, and asked him to convey his greetings and thanks to the UN chief for the attention he is giving to the Palestinian question, and more particularly, the dire straits in which the Palestinians under occupation find themselves. His majesty assured Mr. Blanchard that Jordan would help with suggestions and information to facilitate his mission if these were requested.

His majesty the king described to the UN official the general situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, citing examples of the daily suffering of the population, and emphasizing Jordan's constant support for the Palestinian Arab people to help them attain their legitimate rights. His majesty said that despite Jordan's unfavorable economic conditions, it will keep its support going.

His majesty pointed out to Mr. Blanchard the importance of regional development and the hopes pinned on a European role in this area, as well as on the three Arab cooperation councils.

Meets With Al-Qasim

JN1902204890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1439 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Amman, 19 Feb (PETRA)—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received this morning in his office Francis Blanchard, special adviser to the UN secretary general for economic development in the occupied Palestinian land.

Al-Qasim outlined for him Jordan's efforts to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians in the occupied territory so they can hold firm in the face of deteriorating economic conditions arising from Israeli occupation.

Al-Qasim noted increased Palestinian suffering following stepped up Israeli measures to put down the intifadah, including the use of economic pressure and keeping the population from expoliting their economic resources.

Al-Qasim voiced Jordan's support for the UN secretary general's efforts to relax economic and social pressures on the Palestinian population in the occupied land. He said Jordan does not see work on behalf of economic development as a substitute for stepped up international efforts in the interest of a lasting settlement of the Palestinian problem.

King Husayn on Jewish Emigration, U.S. Policy

JN1802171690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has expressed his concern over the United States' abandonment of its traditional policy of supporting Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip at a time when a new wave of Soviet Jews has begun to flow into Israel.

In a statement published by the U.S. newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST today, his majesty said: It is clear that settling immigrants in the West Bank means displacing others. This will inevitably lead to a new wave

Prime Minister Badran Comments on Riyadh Talks

JN1702175490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran has said His Majesty King Husayn's talks with his brother King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, dealt with all Arab and bilateral issues.

The prime minister, who was answering reporters' questions following the House of Representatives session today, said the Jordanian and Saudi viewpoints were identical. At the beginning of his remarks to reporters, the prime minister answered a question about His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Saudi Arabia by saying:

[Begin recording] [Badran] His Majesty King Husayn paid a three-day visit to his brother King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God preserve him. Expanded meetings were conducted. The Jordanian and Saudi delegations attended. Bilateral meetings also were conducted. As already known, the visit had not been planned to last for three days. It was the wish of the custodian of the two holy mosques, however, to play host to his brother, His Majesty King Husayn, and to discuss more deeply all issues, Arab or bilateral issues of interest to the two countries, which concern the Arab homeland and the Islamic homeland.

During these continuous and long meetings, international circumstances were discussed, including East European events and the emigration of Jews from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union to the occupied territory. The Lebanese issue was discussed, including the suffering of the Lebanese people, particularly at this stage, in terms of the continuous killing, which is completely devoid of any human considerations. Saudi and Jordanian viewpoints were one and the same on this issue. Other Arab and bilateral issues were discussed as well.

His Majesty King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, undoubtedly showed complete understanding of the dimensions of the conditions in Jordan in terms of the economic and financial crisis. Issues were discussed thoroughly, including the Jordanian people's suffering as a result of this crisis, as well as the unemployment problem and the dimensions of the budget, taking into account the sacrifices the Jordanian people should make by way of economic reforms.

The Jordanian people's capabilities, however, are limited. The people cannot go beyond these capabilities. Neither can the government impose any measures that are impossible to implement as far as these debts are concerned. The custodian of the two holy mosques showed full understanding. As I recall, he said that Jordan's economic and financial security, and its security as a whole, is within the framework of the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

I can say this visit has been a successful one in which viewpoints were exchanged on all issues. I can say nine hours of talks were conducted between the two great monarchs, in addition to the Jordanian delegation's talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister; as well as other members of the Saudi delegation. Issues were discussed in detail and, God be praised, the visit was successful as expected, and as always when the great Jordanian and Saudi monarchs meet.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, what about Arab negotiations to conduct an emergency Arab summit?

[Badran] On the issue of conducting an Arab summit, it is Jordan's view the upcoming Arab summit should be discussed very deeply and in detail. We should not go to a summit only to pass resolutions, which, let me say, are superficial without careful consideration. The Jordanian and Saudi viewpoint is the summit should be preceded by long, detailed discussions by the delegations to reach full agreement on issues to be discussed. We go for a summit so the leaders might crown agreements with their signatures. Leaders should not go for the summit to discuss the ABC's of the issues on their agenda. These issues should be discussed by the leaders after they have been discussed carefully and deeply and after full conviction has been realized. Then and only then will we have a summit.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister: In the context of your talks with the Arab brothers, and especially your recent talks with the Saudi officials, what is the Arab brothers' position on the Israeli threats against Jordan, which very recently have increased?

[Badran] As I said before, those threats against Jordan always have been there. Undoubtedly in all of his visits, His Majesty King Husayn discusses these issues with his brother leaders of the Arab nation. We always feel all leaders indeed are committed to helping and defending Jordan, because it constitutes the first defense line for the entire Arab nation. There is no problem here, and there is full agreement on supporting Jordan.

[Reporter] His majesty the king has made statements in which he said Israel began implementing the proposed plan of the alternative homeland. What are the features of this [plan]?

[Badran] I do not want to use the term alternative homeland, because there is no alternative homeland for the Palestinians. The Palestinians' homeland is Palestine—the occupied territories. As I said before, Jordan is an independent, sovereign Arab state, which is a member of the United Nations, international organizations, the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Arab League. Any talk by the Israeli enemy of an alternative homeland, therefore, is rejected. There is no doubt what his majesty the king says constitutes a warning to the Arab and Islamic nations and the world. What we fear from this [Jewish] emigration is that those emigrants from the Soviet Union and East Europe will replace the Palestinians. All efforts, therefore, are going toward preventing them from replacing the Palestinians, because this violates all international laws and the Geneva Convention. It also violates the UN resolutions and the human rights and principles. A humanitarian issue should not be resolved by uprooting other people from their homes and homeland. This is a blatant violation of human rights.

[Reporter] Can you translate in figures the Saudi support and understanding of the economic crisis in Jordan?

[Badran] We naturally do not usually translate things into figures. We present the difficulties facing Jordan, and those difficulties are studied thoroughly by the brothers in Saudi Arabia. As we told our brothers in Saudi Arabia, we appreciate their assessment of Jordan's budget and needs.

[Reporter] Will there be any upcoming trips by his majesty the king or Jordanian envoys to continue arrangements for convening the largely needed next [Arab] summit?

[Badran] We now are preparing to receive leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council member states, who will conduct their summit on 24 February. His majesty the king naturally is on the move constantly to discuss Jordan and the Palestine question. [end recording]

Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced the government has charged a specialized committee with drafting an appropriate legislative formula for the law on graft so it can be implemented according to the Government's pledge made in its policy statement, which it presented to the House of Representative to gain the vote of confidence.

Answering a question on what was raised regarding this during the session conducted today by the House of Representatives, the prime minister said time is needed to study this issue and place it in an appropriate legislative formula.

The prime minister also stressed directives have been issued to the competent parties to deal with the issue of those whose university scholarships have been terminated. He pointed out the problem with those people lies in the government's inability to pay for the period during which they did not receive their grants; and, therefore, the government only will pay them from now on.

of Palestinian immigration into Jordan. His majesty added: With the beginning of the arrival of the Soviet Jews at settlements in the West Bank, the United States sounds as if it has reduced its opposition to Israeli expansion in the occupied territories. His Majesty King Husayn stressed that the situation in the occupied territories must be discussed now. He said: If the basic formula to achieve peace was the principle of land for peace, then what we see and hear now is something completely different.

His majesty expressed concern over the United States' abstention from voting last Friday [16 February] on the UN Human Rights Committee's resolution calling on Israel not to settle immigrants in the occupied Arab territories. He cited what U.S. Ambassador (Maurice Bram) said on that occasion to the effect that the United States does not accept the resolution's inclusion of an advance judgment regarding the status of the occupied territories. His majesty wondered, saying: Is this U.S. policy?

In his statement to the paper, His Majesty King Husayn said that these statements and this policy conflict with UN Security Council Resolution 242, which rejects the annexation of territories by force, and which the United States has always supported. His majesty added: We are trying to draw world attention to what is taking place because it affects us directly.

Public Figures Hand U.S. Envoy Immigration Memo

JN1902171490 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Amman, 19 Feb (PETRA)—A popular delegation representing writers, politicians, professional associations, trade unions, engineers, businessmen, farmers, and various Jordanian public figures handed to the U.S. ambassador in Amman this afternoon a memo addressed to U.S. President George Bush on Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and its dangers.

The memo says the U.S. Administration, which, after World War II, became the hope of oppressed nations and people, is the party currently helping the Zionists, through their illusions and myths, to ignore the call for a just and comprehensive peace.

This comes through its strategic alliance with, and constant support for the Zionist entity in every field. The memo refers to the role played by the industrial-military-financial community, which formulates U.S. decisions on the basis of self-interest at the expense of ethics, and to the role played by the Zionist lobby and its pressure groups in the U.S. Congress, media, and cultural and financial institutions to maintain U.S. support for the Zionist entity.

The memo expresses hope U.S. political decisionmaking on the Arab-Israeli conflict will be freed from Zionist influence and that the United States will abandon the strategic alliance with Israel—the only such alliance the United States has in the world—which supports the forces of Zionist fanaticism, hegemony, settlement, war, and expansionism.

The memo states: We and the world remember the role played by your country in allowing Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. Your country put the issue of emigration on the agenda of every U.S.-Soviet summit under the heading of human rights. The memo also says if the issue is related to ethical, humanitarian, and legal respect for human rights, then these rights also should apply to the Palestinian Arab people, who are subjected to Zionist oppression and who, for the past four decades, have been threatened with war, expansionism, uprooting, and expulsion.

The memo wonders what kind of human rights exist under Zionist barbarism and with the Palestinians scattered over every part of the world and deprived of their lands. The memo adds U.S. pressure played the leading role in opening the door for Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and provided all the conditions and legislation to make our country—Palestine—the only way out for the Soviet Jewish emigrants.

The memo says: The peaceful Palestinian intifadah started two years ago for the sake of human rights, liberty, and independence. The unarmed Palestinian people confront your strategic ally—Israel—for the sake of their legitimate national rights and to establish their independent state on the soil of their homeland. Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, Ethiopia, and East European countries constitutes a grave danger that makes us concerned for our present and future. Supporting the Zionist entity means Israel will be able to launch a new aggression against our nation and occupy more territories. It also means the true U.S. position on peace has been revealed.

The memo concludes by saying: The Arab people will not accept, or remain silent over the plots being hatched, and the Arab people have the right to respond with every means available to defend themselves. The Arab people are concerned about rights, justice, and the future, like all other peoples.

The memo urged President Bush and the U.S. people to conduct their international relations the same way all international relations are conducted among governments and peoples, namely, on the basis of ethics, conscience, and human rights—not on the basis of self-interest.

U.S. 'Responsible' for Immigration's Consequences

JN2002093090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Feb 90 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The United States Goes to Excess in its Hostility"]

[Text] It seems time now is ripe more than ever to ask ourselves about the true U.S. stand toward the continued

Israeli occupation of Arab territories. This is in light of the continuous U.S. retreat from declared U.S. commitments to several aspects of the Middle East crisis that we have begun to see these days.

Perhaps the current U.S. stand toward the Soviet Jewish emigration and Israel's plans to settle these immigrants in the occupied territories, represent the peak of U.S. retreats regarding this, especially after the U.S. envoy abstained from voting on a resolution calling on Israel not to settle Soviet immigrants in the occupied territories, and his frank rejection of what this envoy termed as a prejudgment implied in the resolution regarding the status of the occupied territories.

What draws attention is that while Israeli voices, inside and outside the coalition government, at times call for establishment of Greater Israel, and at other times for the alternative homeland, U.S. officials adopt stands, which at the very least, encourage the advocates of expansion in Israel to continue their evil attempts, especially since Washington's disavowal of its traditional policy of supporting the Israeli withdrawal coincides with the beginning of this extensive new Jewish emigration.

From this premise we wonder bitterly: Why does the United States ignore its commitments to UN Security Council Resolution 242, to which it was previously a signatory, and devote all its potentials to bringing Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine? The United States knows full well all the implications and consequences of this action that threatens the peace process, torpedoes UN Security Council Resolution 242, and endangers the current situation in the region, especially when we know that these immigrants will settle in the land of the Palestinians, the legitimate owners of this land.

While adhering to the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland and standing as a huge mountain against the conspiracy of the alternative homeland, we call on the international community to examine this increasing harmony between the Israeli and U.S. stands on the issue of emigration, occupation, Palestinian rights, and other issues on which the Israeli and U.S. policies are identical before the eyes of the whole world.

Israel's policy toward the emigration of Soviet Jews and toward settling them in the occupied territories are the result of Washington's continued pressure on Moscow to force it to open its doors to this emigration, and of the U.S. Administration's generous financial aid and grants to Israel to allow it to absorb these immigrants. We, therefore, hold the United States fully responsible for all the serious consequences of this policy that is hostile to Palestinian rights and the entire Arab nation's interests.

Editorial Urges Summit Over Jewish Emigration

JN2002084290 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Feb 90 First Edition pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "The Summit is Required To Confront the Challenges Posed by Jewish Emigration"]

[Text] Arab media organs, which, as well known, are all state-owned, have ceaselessly continued to assail Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and also to lambaste settling them in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Arab World supposedly is opposing what is going on, particularly in the wake of Shamir's statements in which he said such mass immigration requires the creation of "Greater Israel".

Hence, all parties agree on the dangers posed by Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine. Besides, everyone opposes, condemns, and denounces this immigration. Everyone also knows Moscow and Washington are nurturing the emigration process and spending money on the settlement of immigrants in occupied Palestine.

The United States and the USSR agree on this issue. There is grave danger posed by the Jewish immigration to Palestine. Regardless of this, the Arab handling of this challenge has failed to rise above the well-known and totally useless methods.

The Arabs are saying they do not object to immigration, but demand immigrants should not be settled in the occupied territories. Such talk is the least they can do, or even less than that, simply because Israel can move its residents from one place to another without heeding the watchful eyes of monitors or observers; and this fact is well known to Arabs, all Arabs.

They also are saying the United States is financing immigration. Washington claims it does not finance the settling of immigrants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. U.S. funds, however, pour into the Israeli treasury.

It is a dirty game. Let us admit we will be incapable of doing anything to stop this travesty unless we face this situation with a unified stand backed by the capabilities, resources, and potentials of the Arabs living in areas extending from the ocean to the gulf, or at least by the resources of the Arabs living in the Arab east, which is the least we should be able to mobilize.

The situation is dangerous. Mere useless protests cannot tackle this situation. On the pan-Arab level, this situation requires the mobilization of unified Arab efforts in a summit designed to consider the dangers posed by Soviet Jewish immigration and to project a unifed Arab stance and joint Arab endeavors in the face of Moscow, Washington, and Israel—a stand and endeavors that would be capable of returning matters to normal in the region.

The summit urgently is required before the winds of the grand conspiracy blow us away, one state after another.

2 UNIFIL Soldiers Killed in Israeli Bombardment

NC2002084890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Two soldiers from the Nepalese contingent operating within the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] were killed and six others wounded when their position in Buyut al-Sayyid came under artillery bombardment from the Israeli enemy positions in the area.

UNIFIL official spokesman Timor Goksel has stated that two soldiers from the Nepalese contingent, a warrant officer and a private, were killed and six others injured, one seriously, when their position was subjected to 16 120-mm rounds from an Israeli-controlled area.

Israeli Helicopters Bombard Amal Camp in South

NC1602212190 Paris AFP in English 2106 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Feb 16 (AFP)—Two Israeli helicopters Friday bombed a training camp of the Shiite Amal militia south of here, causing extensive damage but no casualties, a spokesman for the militia said.

The helicopters fired eight rockets at the camp located near the main Shiite stronghold of al-Nabatiyah in the central sector of southern Lebanon, the spokesman said.

In Jerusalem, an Israeli Army spokesman said Israeli aircraft carried out an evening raid Friday against a base controlled jointly by Amal and Palestinian organisations south of the port of Sidon.

He added that the aircraft returned safely to base after destroying the position, which he said served as a launching pad for anti-Israeli attacks.

"This raid was launched after stepped up attacks by Amal in southern Lebanon and the help given by this organisation to Palestinian terrorists infiltrating the region," he added.

The raid came after reports that 400 Israeli soldiers crossed into southern Lebanon Wednesday [14 February] while an Israeli armoured unit was placed on alert across the border with Lebanon, in an area facing Syrian troops.

Pro-Iranian groups and Palestinian factions also maintain positions in those areas.

According to a security source in southern Lebanon the reinforcements on the border were the most important by Israel since its 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

The Israeli troops entering Lebanon took positions in four barracks inside Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in southern Lebanon and in Marj'uyun, site of the Israeli Army's headquarters in Lebanon.

The Israeli Army has carried out in the past several incursions north of its border with Israel in retaliation for anti-Israeli attacks.

Israeli Troops in South at 'Unprecedented' Level

NC1602204490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Reports from the south say that the occupation forces' troop concentrations in the occupied border area are at a level unprecedented since the Israeli invasion in 1982. Regarding this, AFP has quoted a security source saying 400 Israeli soldiers have arrived at four barracks in the eastern area, and an armored unit in the Galilee panhandle area near the border has been put on a state of alert.

Ja'ja' Denounces 'Cruel Onslaught,' Makes Appeal

NC1602225890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2120 GMT 16 Feb 90

["Appeal" by Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' on 16 February—live via telephone link-up]

[Text] To the governments and people of the world; to the governments and people of the Arab countries; to the Lebanese and Christian public:

The silence over what is taking place is a crime. Throughout history, the Lebanese citizen has never been subjected to the murder, destruction, and terrorist practices like the ones he is experiencing today. This citizen is being subjected to the most abominable, ferocious, and cruel onslaught, unlike anything he has ever experienced, even by Lebanon's most barbaric and malicious enemies. The villages are knocked down one after the other, the towns are attacked systematically with steel and fire, and the residential areas are crumbling on the heads of their innocent inhabitants. The silence over what is taking place is a crime. Indeed, there is a persistent excess in murdering and displacing innocent people.

This war did not spare anybody. Its goal in the beginning was to abolish the Lebanese resistance, and soon it turned into massive annihilation of the Lebanese people in the free areas. If the war launched by General 'Awn against his towns, villages, and people continues, Lebanon will be threatened with an inevitable, real end. It seems that his war will not stop until the last citizen dies, and the last home in the last village in Lebanon is destroyed. Therefore, the silence over what is happening is a crime against the citizen, the homeland, humanity, and all values, norms and principles.

Lebanon, with its heritage of civilization: Today the old, contemporary, and future Lebanon is being completely and comprehensively destroyed. The citizen who was steadfast through the years of ordeal and who confronted the hardest and darkest days is dying today of his wounds, cast down by the roadside, looking at his home and his life's work being ruined and crushed before his eyes. He is standing impotent and shackled before a starving child, an old man groaning from the immensity of the catastrophe, and a bereaved woman who is mourning a son or a husband who fell at the hands of the insanity enveloping our areas today.

In light of the immensity of what is happening and proceeding from my faith in an eternal, free, and independent homeland; proceeding from my faith in liberty, pride, and dignity; proceeding from my inability to see our people killed, driven from their homes, slaughtered, and displaced; and out of the responsibility that I bear to my homeland and people; I call on all the countries of the world and all the spiritual and temporal Lebanese officials, specifically the legitimate ones, to bear their full responsibilities to God, to the homeland, and to the citizens. I call on them to make every possible effort, with sufficient speed and firmness and with every available resource, to rescue Lebanon from this destructive ordeal.

On this occasion, I promise the Lebanese people that I will spare no effort, regardless of the price or sacrifice, and I will use every possible, available means to stop this mass slaughter to which they are being subjected as soon as possible.

The Lebanese people and Lebanon will continue to exist. What is to come is imminent. Long live the Lebanese people; long live Lebanon.

Al-Hirawi Responds to Appeal

NC1702124690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Political circles say that the appeal which Samir Ja'ja' addressed to the countries of the world and all Lebanese officials last night to save Lebanon from its tribulation was mainly directed to President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Patriarch Sfayr. The appeal was obscure regarding Ja'ja' position on the al-Ta'if agreement, the circles say.

Quoting presidential sources, AFP said today that President al-Hirawi is making any intervention by him in the eastern area conditional on recognition by Ja'ja' of the al-Ta'if agreement. AFP adds that President al-Hirawi cannot demand the legitimate authority's interference without a political pledge in return, and without recognition of the al-Ta'if agreement and the legitimate authority which was elected on the basis of this agreement. The circles explained that the appeal which Ja'ja' made last night is insufficient, particularly because it does not mention President al-Hirawi by name.

LF Awaiting Al-Hirawi's Response

NC1902072290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] AFP cited a Lebanese Forces [LF] source as saying that the next few hours will be decisive. The source threatened that if President Ilyas al-Hirawi fails to respond [to the LF commander's appeal], the LF will approve a settlement according to which they will join 'Awn's government. The same source added that this step will represent a severe blow to the al-Ta'if accord and the authority that emerged afterward.

Highly-placed political sources said the LF source's statement is a part of the Ja'ja' cliques' attempts to embezzle the legitimate authority. The same sources said this is not new, recalling that one of Ja'ja' aides had previously expressed the LF's preparedness to join 'Awn's government provided they can keep their own weapons, a condition that 'Awn has persistently rejected.

Faris Appeals to Army Personnel To End Fighting

NC1702090690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Staff Colonel Paul Faris [commander of the Neutral Army Forces] has addressed an appeal to all the military personnel under the command of General 'Awn to stop the fighting immediately and join his ranks.

During a news conference which he held yesterday, Faris said: The continuation of the fighting alongside Gen 'Awn constitutes actual participation in the crime of killing the people and destroying the homeland. He called upon the Army to let Gen 'Awn alone assume the responsibility for the crimes that are being committed. He emphasized that the neutral forces are not an armed group affiliated with one faction or party but belong to all the Lebanese.

Halat Air Base Declares Loyalty to Gen Lahhud

NC1702065890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] According to official sources, the Halat air base has declared its loyalty to Army Commander General Emile Lahhud. The sources said three Hawker Hunter aircraft had taken off from the base on test [tajribiyah] flights and landed somewhere beyond the range of 'Awn's artillery.

Citing sources in the internal security forces, AP said four aircraft had taken off from Halat and landed at al-Qulay'at airfield in the north.

Christian Forces Clash in Kasrawan, Adma 17 Feb

NC1702104890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Fierce clashes involving various types of weapons have erupted between 'Awn's cliques and those of Ja'ja' on the Kasrawan front, especially on the Adma combat line.

'Awn's media have said that the Adma barracks has been the target of artillery and rocket fire from the emplacements of the gunmen [Lebanese Forces] in the Kasrawan area. The gunmen are also shelling the northern al-Matn coast indiscriminately. Citing an 'Awn military source, the media said that the gunmen have thwarted Patriarch Sfayr's efforts to establish a truce by launching an intensive artillery and rocket attack on Adma. This attack has been in progress since 0830. The source said: It appears that after Samir Ja'ja', commander of the gunmen, shed crocodile tears and made a conspiratorial appeal yesterday, his rocket launchers installed on the Kasrawan coast and in upper Kasrawan began to attack Adma and the al-Matn coast.

Lebanese Forces Take Control of Adma Barracks

NC1802082890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Guarded calm prevails on all combat lines in the eastern area this morning after last night's agreement to stop firing and to end the media campaigns. [passage omitted]

A series of military operations, during which the Lebanese Forces took control of Adma Barracks, preceded the agreement.

The mediation committee, who entered the barracks shortly after midnight, began negotiations after 2000 yesterday to evacuate ['Awn's] commandos from the barracks. The evacuation began at 0245 today, and buses and Red Cross vehicles took the Balluni-al-Mayyasah-[name indistinct] route.

The Adma Barracks comprised two commando companies, an armored platoon of the 8th Brigade, and a mechanized platoon from the 7th Brigade. Before their evacuation, the commandos planted mines and explosive charges inside the barracks and in nearby buildings, and they set fire to a number of buildings. According to a preliminary report, about 30 of the Adma Barracks personnel have been killed and more than 50 others wounded in the battle.

The mediation committee members, Bishop Khalil Abu-Nadir, Abbot Bulus Nu'man, and lawyer Shakir Abu-Sulayman, held a lengthy meeting with Staff Major General Fu'ad Malik yesterday and made intensive contacts with General Michel 'Awn, Dr Samir Ja'ja', and the Army Command in the evening. The committee members will remain in constant contact with the Army and Lebanese Forces commands to follow up implementing the cease-fire agreement and halting the media campaigns. [passage omitted]

While no exact figures on the amount of damage and number of victims are available, AFP said that the East Beirut casualty toll is 603 dead and 2,142 wounded. REUTER, however, said that approximately 600 have been killed and about 2,000 wounded.

'Awn Views Adma Incident

NC1802112690 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Former Army Commander Michel 'Awn has stated that a solution has been reached with the mediation committee. The solution provides for withdrawing the force that was stationed in Adma Barracks to its main headquarters and for removing the dead and wounded. He pointed out that the wounded have been taken away in ambulances and that the force returned to its base bringing back its equipment and ammunition.

'Awn said that what happened in Adma and the way the situation there was resolved could lead to a political solution, but neither what happened nor the way it was resolved are part of a solution. After what happened yesterday, he hoped that the other issues would be resolved and that each party would know its position politically. 'Awn added that he hopes and is working for political solutions through dialogue, but matters depend on more than one party, and this means the other parties must respond.

Regarding the chances for opportunities for peace in the future, 'Awn said that he feels and is realistic enough to know that the chances must be great. He said that the era of dreams has gone, and the era of reality has dawned.

Al-Khalil: Government To Enter Eastern Area

NC1902100790 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The fragile truce in the eastern areas is being violated by limited skirmishes along the contact lines, particularly on the combat line extending from the museum to al-Dawrah. Meanwhile, sniper fire continues along the various lines. The two combatant sides continue to reinforce positions and erect fortifications on the Kasrawan-Upper al-Matn front where extreme tension prevails.

In another development, President al-Hirawi received Finance Minister Dr 'Ali al-Khalil this morning. Minister al-Khalil said in a press statement that the legitimate authority is determined to enter the eastern areas and regain the presidential palace in B'abda and the Defense Ministry [in al-Yarzah]. Minister al-Khalil added that the legitimate authority is fully entitled to seek the help of the Syrian forces in accordance with the al-Ta'if accord.

'Awn Warns LF To Evacuate Al-Ashrafiyah

NC1902135090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] AFP has quoted a Western diplomatic source as casting doubt on the likelihood of a final end to the battles. He said: We see a lull now because both sides are tired. I do not see any sign of reaching a durable political settlement.

In another development, press reports said 'Awn has warned the Lebanese Forces [LF] to evacuate the gunmen from al-Ashrafiyah peacefully within 72 hours. Observers draw a link between this ultimatum and 'Awn's urgent need to eliminate the armed presence in

East Beirut as a prelude to establishing a link between land and sea to secure a vital utility to connect him with the outside world.

Acute tension prevailed today, especially on the combat lines, while citizens used the truce to inspect their property.

'Awn's sources spoke of clashes on the al-Judaydah and al-Dawrah combat lines and of tension in upper Kasrawan.

Al-Huss Assesses Mediation Efforts

NC1702115890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Dispatch by NNA Correspondent Muhammad Jabir from Prime Minister Salim al-Huss' office—live]

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss was asked his opinion about the possibility of the success of the current mediation efforts to end the fighting in the eastern area. He answered: The most important thing is to stop the bloodshed and killing. We support all efforts to achieve this objective. As for the idea of mediation between the belligerents, this is a wrong concept of how to end the war between two illegitimate sides. War cannot be ended between two illegitimate sides at the expense of the unity of the people, homeland, and state. It can be ended by accepting one legitimate authority, seeking its judgement, and supporting it against all the illegitimate authorities that are tearing the country asunder, draining the state's wealth, and depriving the citizen of the most basic requirements of his life. The mistake that the mediators in the war of the eastern area are committing is that they are killing this basic fact and are content to receive a verbal agreement to a cease-fire from two illegitimate parties fighting to control the eastern area. A cease-fire is not a real peace plan. Therefore, it will not hold if not accompanied by a plan for a political solution based on national accord and commitment to the unity of Lebanon—homeland, society, and state. We say the unity of Lebanon, and not the unity of the eastern area, any other area, or any faction because the bitter experiences of the crisis have taught us that unity must encompass the entire homeland and people or else it cannot exist. Any other plans or initiatives relating to communities, creeds, or areas will lead to fragmentation and subsequently will help the continuation of the existing conflicts and create new ones.

Regarding the determination of the legitimate authority to take a specific step toward ending the eastern area's tragedy, Prime Minister al-Huss said: The tragedy of the people in the eastern area is of concern to us. We are holding continuous contacts at home and abroad to end this tragic situation.

'Awn Cited on Conditions To End Fighting

NC1702120690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1100 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] QNA cites political sources in Beirut today as having said that, during his meeting with Michel 'Awn in B'abda yesterday, Patriarch Sfayr failed to persuade 'Awn to observe a complete cease-fire with the Lebanese Forces. The sources added: 'Awn told Patriarch Sfayr that he will stop the fighting only if Ja'ja' surrenders all his heavy-caliber weapons to his army and declares at a news conference that he is prepared to withdraw all his fighters from their present positions and assemble them in barracks to be designated by 'Awn's command, under the supervision of 'Awn's forces. In addition, the Lebanese Forces must dissolve all their military and security institutions.

The sources said that the patriarch told 'Awn that the Vatican has told him of its concern over the continuation of the fighting in East Beirut—a matter that could lead to changes in international stands regarding the possibility of intervention by the forces that are loyal to President al-Hirawi and under the command of General Emile Lahhud.

Final Agreement Reached on 6-Point Plan

NC1902185190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Dispatch by correspondent Johnny Munayyar]

[Excerpts] The mediation committee this evening ended a long day of negotiations to solve the problems in the eastern areas. After meeting with General Michel 'Awn at B'abda Palace at noon today, the committee then went to Juniyah by the coastal road and met with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' for one hour beginning at 1700. The committee consisted of Bishop Khalil Abi-Nadir, Abbot Bulus Nu'man, attorney Shakir Abu-Sulayman, and attorney George 'Adwan. [passage omitted]

Shakir Abu-Sulayman said the following after the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Munayyar] Mr Abu-Sulayman, [words indistinct] from B'abda Palace to Dr Ja'ja'. Can you tell us how these meetings went?

[Abu-Sulayman] The committee resumed its efforts and activity today as scheduled. We met this morning in B'abda with Prime Minister Gen 'Awn and the ministers and discussed in detail ways to end the problem from the (?political) and security points of view. We then went to see Dr Ja'ja' to discuss the same subject with him. A final agreement was reached to endorse the six points which the committee had outlined previously. We then studied the establishment of what we might call the higher committee, the political and national committee. We also reviewed who was to be on the committee and we hope that we can establish this committee and convene a meeting of it tomorrow. The first thing this committee will discuss and decide upon is the consolidation of the cease-fire and the restoration of normal life. We hope to do this tomorrow. We are doing our best. We sympathize with the people and know how much they want this abnormal situation to end. We ourselves experienced this abnormal situation when we had to pass through all the roadblocks between al-Dubayyah and Nahr al-Kalb today. We think that these roadblocks are humiliating to all Lebanese. We hope to normalize this situation and are working night and day to find a fundamental political solution which will safeguard our unity and dignity and restore cohesion among the members of the same homeland.

[Munayyar] What will be done in practice on the ground? Will the roads be reopened?

[Abu-Sulayman] The first thing that the committee will discuss, God willing, will be the reopening of the roads, the normalization of life, and the consolidation of the cease-fire. The cease-fire is stable, despite some violations. We hope to restore normal life. The restoration of normal life includes the disengaging the forces, reopening the roads, and enabling the people to return to normal life and work.

[Munayyar] Is there a timetable?

[Abu-Sulayman] This will be discussed tomorrow. It will be discussed by security committees, which may join us, because this matter is within their domain more than it is within ours. However, we will continue to supervise everything, even security matters. We volunteered to deal with the problem and we will continue our work until the end, God willing.

[Munayyar] Did you discuss the details of the six points which were approved?

[Abu-Sulayman] We discussed some of the details with the two parties today. The national committee will continue the discussion of all the details. [end recording]

The committee will resume its meetings tomorrow and is scheduled to meet with Gen 'Awn at B'abda before noon.

Mediation Committee Sources on 'Awn's Conditions

NC1902210890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The tripartite mediation committee comprising Beirut Archbishop Khalil Abu-Nadir, Abbot Bulus Nu'man, and Attorney Shakir Abu-Sulayman held two meetings today. The first meeting was with former Army Commander Michel 'Awn this morning and the second with [Lebanese Forces Commander] Samir Ja'ja' at his place of residence at 1700 this afternoon. The two meetings were held in an effort to consolidate the fragile truce through a plan which the committee prepared and presented to the parties to the conflict. Meanwhile, committee sources quoted 'Awn as saying that he concentrated on the al-Ta'if agreement during the meeting and demanded that the committee exact a public statement from Ja'ja' opposing this agreement. 'Awn also reiterated his intention to integrate the military forces into the Army and not to permit the pluralism of guns.

LF Fire at Mediation Committee Members

NC1902202390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Mediation committee members Shakir Abu-Sulayman and Abbot Bulus Nu'man were shot at by members of the Lebanese Forces [LF] shortly after 2000 tonight as they were traveling in a BMW car in Sinn al-Fil area . Abu-Sulayman contacted Fu'ad Malik, the so-called chief of the Forces general staff, who told him that the Lebanese Forces elements had not yet been told about the new security measures, that he must not (?attach any importance) to the incident, and that the Forces will work to contain the incident and prevent its recurrence.

'Awn Sources Cited on Conditions for Dialogue

NC2002125890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Despite the Lebanese Forces' repeated calls for a serious dialogue to avoid more casualties and to avert further catastrophes, and despite the diligent and continued efforts that the mediation committee members have exerted, sources close to General 'Awn have declared that there will be no serious dialogue until gunmen are cleared from Beirut, since this will be a test of good will. The sources told the AL-NAHAR paper that Gen 'Awn refuses to be treated as another party on the ground, refuses to get into the security committees' labyrinths, and rejects the notion of disengagement between the Army and the gunmen, who must clear the stage for him, according to AL-NAHAR, citing sources close to Gen 'Awn.

Lebanese Forces Said Ready To Hand Over Areas

NC2002123490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Kuwait's AL-QABAS newspaper cites a Lebanese Forces source as saying that the Lebanese Forces have conveyed to Lebanon's legitimate government their readiness to hand them the areas they control in East Beirut and in the Kasrawan and Jubayl Districts. However, AL-QABAS adds, the Lebanese Forces set a condition to the effect that only Lebanese troops and those under the legitimate authority's command will be allowed to enter these areas.

1 Killed, 8 Wounded in Israeli Raid Over E. Sidon

NC1902203390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Citing security sources, REUTER reports that the Israeli air raid on positions in East Sidon resulted in the death of one person and the wounding of eight others. The sources added that the wounded include civilians who are employed at a textile factory in Kafr Jarrah. The sources further said that the Israeli attack was directed against positions of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the villages of Lib'a and Kafr Jarrah.

Further on Raids

NC2002073490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Eight Zionist Air Force warplanes raided Palestine Liberation Front and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine positions in Kafr Jarrah village east of Sidon at 1700 yesterday. The raid left three wounded and caused extensive property damage.

At 1715, the Zionist warplanes resumed their raids against areas east of Sidon, causing further damage. An Islamic Health Committee ambulance that was carrying the wounded was hit, wounding two of the rescuers.

'Awn Claims Fall of 'Ayn Al-Rummanah

NC1602183090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Excerpts] According to the most recent security reports this evening, the residential areas in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Dawrah, and al-Ashrafiyah are coming under concentrated bombardment, and fires broke out in al-Ashrafiyah. Lebanese Forces' sources said that the Jubayl coast was subjected to shellfire this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, former Army commander Michel 'Awn held a news conference this afternoon and announced that 'Ayn al-Rummanah has fallen to his troops. He added that 'Ayn al-Rummanah is no longer at the mercy of the armed nightmare. He pointed out that the military operation in 'Ayn al-Rummanah has ended. However, Lebanese Forces' sources said that their units continue to check the successive attacks by 'Awn's group.

60 Reported Killed

NC1702064490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] REUTER describes the 'Ayn al-Rummanah area as a cemetery hit by an earthquake. The agency says that the destruction has affected every street, some buildings have collapsed under the violent bombardment, and bodies of the citizens are still under the debris. It states that 60 persons were killed and 200 injured in the 'Ayn al-Rummanah battle.

AFP reports that the number victims of the fighting has risen to 586 dead and 2,000 injured.

Druze Radio on Al-Hirawi's Contacts With U.S.

NC1602191590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Informed political sources have disclosed that President Ilyas al-Hirawi is in touch with the U.S. Administration to prepare the international climate for limited military intervention in East Beirut. The intervention is intended to save tens of thousands of civilians' lives and to stop the ongoing war between the Lebanese Forces and 'Awn's forces.

These sources have told the QATARI NEWS AGENCY in Beirut that the United States has not yet approved any military operation against 'Awn in East Beirut. This has prompted President al-Hirawi's government to consider calling an emergency Arab Summit to present the Arab nation with its historic responsibility toward Lebanon.

The sources stressed that Al-Hirawi has received assurances from East Beirut that his authority would be supported once his Army units entered the eastern area.

Party Supporters Urge Dany Sham'un To Intervene

NC1602193090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] National Liberal Party [NLP] supporters in 'Ayn al-Rummanah have addressed the following appeal to NLP leader Engineer Dany Sham'un:

We address you after suffering long hours of bombardment, asking you to persuade General 'Awn to stop this massacre which has not spared any of 'Ayn al-Rummanah's citizens for more than 15 days. We are cowering with our families and children in the shelters without water, electricity, or contact with the outside world just like our other brothers in the neighborhood.

They are urging you to return to the great leader [former President] Camille Sham'un's teachings. If he were alive, he would not accept such shameful internecine fighting among Christians and would not remain silent in the face of the massacre being perpetrated against the people and the cause.

Dany Sham'un Reportedly Killed in East Beirut

NC1602185890 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1810 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Press reports in Beirut today said that Dany Sham'un, National Liberal Party leader and son of former Lebanese President Camille Sham'un, was killed in East Beirut during the ongoing fighting between Michel 'Awn and Samir Ja'ja' forces. AL-SHIRA' magazine reports that Dany Sham'un was killed by bomb shrapnel and that his death has not been reported.

Al-Shar' Comments on Lebanon, Regional Issues

JN1602120090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Damascus, 16 Feb (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has reaffirmed President Hafiz al-Asad's commitment to help the legitimate Lebanese authorities implement the al-Ta'if agreement and achieve Lebanon's unity, stability, and security, and to enable the legitimate Lebanese Army to end the rebellion in the eastern area, which is a major and indispensable step toward imposing the Lebanese state's sovereignty over its territory.

In a interview with AGENCE-FRANCE PRESSE yesterday, Al-Shar' added that the Christians' human and material losses in the eastern area attest to the falsehood of all General 'Awn's claims to be defending Christians in Lebanon. He said Syria regretted the fall of victims in West Beirut and other Lebanese areas as a result of the so-called war of liberation declared by 'Awn last year, and it now regrets the fall of innocent victims as a result of the power struggle raging in East Beirut.

Al-Shar' expressed amazement at the suggestions made to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi by some international parties asking him not to intervene to stop the bloodbath and to solidify the legitimate authority.

He said that whoever emerges victorious from the raging battles, a heavy price will have been paid by the Christians through their suffering.

Responding to a question on renewed talks in Syria about Arab solidarity, Al-Shar' said that Syria's call for Arab solidarity is not new, because Arab solidarity has been the cornerstone of Syria's foreign policy since the launching of the corrective movement under President Hafiz al-Asad.

He indicated that the lack of Arab solidarity in the past was not caused by Syria's absence, but because of serious developments that faced the Arab homeland, most important of which was Al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and his anti-Arab course, as well as the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war in 1980, which the Arab states were not consulted on.

Al-Shar' said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's Arab policies, the end of the Iraq-Iran war, and the al-Ta'if agreement could constitute appropriate grounds for reviving Arab solidarity.

Answering a question on whether Syrian-Iraqi differences constitute an obstacle to Arab solidarity, the minister said: Arab solidarity and joint Arab action do not exist in the official Iraqi media. All we see is that Baghdad is preoccupied with highlighting the Iraqi regional fanaticism and Iraq's pre-Islamic history in isolation from Iraq's pan-Arab affiliation.

Regarding the reasons behind postponing President Husni Mubarak's visit to Syria, the Syrian foreign minister said that no specific date had been fixed for the visit and, therefore, one cannot talk about postponing President Mubarak's visit to Syria. He added that Syria welcomes President Mubarak whenever he wishes to make his visit.

Regarding the major changes in the Soviet Union and East Europe and the Soviet Jews' emigration to Israel, the minister said that Arabs have no alternative but solidarity, leading to their unity, because contemporary challenges force Arabs more than ever before to maintain their own defense umbrella as well as the broadest possible relations and friendships with countries of the world.

He added that Israel, with its expansionist and racist policies, is the last party qualified to talk about human rights and demand the Jews' immigration. The Security Council must make a decision to halt Jewish emigration to Israel for as long as Israel occupies Arab territories and ignores the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination, he said.

Regarding Turkey's action to cut off the water of the Euphrates from Syria and Iraq during the period 13 January to 12 March, Al-Shar' said: Regrettably, certain elements in the Turkish media consider the Euphrates a Turkish river, whose water Turkey donates graciously to Syria and Iraq. He said this position not only violates international laws and norms, but contradicts history. This region—Syria and Iraq—has been known from time immemorial as the land of the two rivers—the Tigris and the Euphrates—even before the Turkish state was set up in Anatolia. He added: Still, we consider the Euphrates an international river shared by Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. It must be a source of goodness and understanding for the three states and not a source of tension and conflict.

Concluding the interview, Al-Shar' said: We believe that tripartite meetings on the ministerial level will help reach an understanding and agreement to guarantee the interests of the three countries.

Damascus Cites Ja'ja' Appeal for Intervention

JN1702074690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 feb 90

[Excerpts] Beirut—News agencies reported this morning that Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' called today for the legitimate government to intervene to stop the massacres in East Beirut, thus admitting that his forces had lost control of 'Ayn al-Rummanah.

Reports said that four Lebanese Hawker Hunter planes left the area controlled by the warring parties and joined the Lebanese Army. They landed at al-Qulay'at military base in north Lebanon. The pilots declared their loyalty to the Lebanese Army Commander General Emile Lahhud. [passage omitted]

In Washington yesterday, the United States called on the Lebanese Army to back Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and work with him directly to save Lebanon from its current crisis. U.S. officials said that President al-Hirawi has so far made every effort to end the crisis peacefully and has behaved in a responsible and wise manner. However, Lebanon must overcome its crisis if it is to survive as a sovereign and independent state.

In an interview yesterday, a U.S. official called on the Lebanese Army to rally round the Lebanese president and work with him under his leadership. He confirmed that the United States continues to support President al-Hirawi and the legitimate government in Lebanon.

In Paris yesterday, France called for a halt to the fighting in East Beirut and urged support for the legitimate forces to unite them. AFP cited a Foreign Ministry statement saying: Due to the renewed confrontations between the 'Awn and Ja'ja' elements, and the crises that have resulted for the civilian citizens, the French authorities urgently call for an end to the fighting. The French Foreign Ministry statement added that stopping the fighting will lead to mass support for the legitimate Lebanese authorities' efforts to neutralize the threats to Lebanon's unity and enable the legitimate government to perform its duties as well as possible. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Sharon's Settlement Proposal

JN1902192490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] In his letter of resignation, Sharon accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir of not exerting sufficient effort or using the available power to quell the Palestinian intifadah and guarantee the safety of the settlers. Sharon believes that the Israeli Government has failed to deal with the current challenge for the past two years—a challenge he calls Palestinian terrorism.

Yesterday, Sharon proposed a program to achieve a settlement in the region. The former minister, who puts himself forward as a substitute for Shamir, spoke for the first time about peace prospects, and called for opening the border with Jordan. He also promised to build new houses for Palestinian refugees in Gaza and to grant autonomy rule to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories—on condition that internal and external security should remain in Israel's hands.

Sharon did not conceal what is said repeatedly by the enemy leaders at their private meetings; namely, that Jordan is the alternative homeland for the Palestinians. In fact, Sharon has said nothing new because such a program does not differ much from that of Shamir and is not very far from the ideas of the Zionist Labor Party. Sharon knows that the war minister, or any enemy war minister, will not be able to confront the Palestinian intifadah more effectively than Yitzhaq Rabin, who has not hesitated to use every repressive action, including siege, starvation, bone-breaking, live ammunition, indiscriminate killing of civilians, toxic gases, destruction of houses and crops, destruction of trees, cutting off water, preventing food and medicine from reaching their destination, closure of schools, and filling hundreds of detention camps with tens of thousands of youths. Rabin used all the most brutal and repressive means available. But the will of the Palestinian people is stronger than those means, and the intifadah and the sacrifices of the Palestinian people continue to remind the Western world of the crime it committed when it established the racist Zionist entity in the heart of the Arab homeland and on Palestine's land.

The plans of the enemy's leaders, whether moderates or extremists, are the same in the final analysis, because all of these plans are based on the denial of the Palestinian people's rights on their soil and in their homeland as well on refusal to recognize the right to self-determination. Shamir alleges that the occupied territories are liberated areas and are part of Greater Israel. Sharon does not disagree with him on this point. Peres, Sharon, and Shamir reject the Palestinian state, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and the return of Arab Jerusalem—which they call Israel's permanent capital.

Large-scale Jewish immigration is designed to reinforce these radical positions. The Israeli prime minister did not conceal Zionism's need for more lands to accommodate the new settlers, nor did he conceal his plan to establish Greater Israel. Hence, we must stress that Greater Israel is a firm Zionist goal and that the enemy's leaders are reaffirming their adherence to that plan, which they have begun to implement.

The Americans know more than anyone else the details of the plan. This was clear in U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's call to Israel last year to abandon that expansionist plan. This being the case, the betting by some Arabs on the possibility of a moderate Israeli position is a mistake, which will damage the Arab cause because moderate and extremist Zionists agree on rejecting Palestinian rights and devouring and Judaizing their lands.

Jewish immigration strongly promotes this tendency, and the plans of the enemy's leaders are based on consolidating the occupation, expanding the settlement process, and changing the features of the land. Sharon expressed frankly what the Israelis have in mind when he called for opening the border with Jordan in order to encourage the Palestinians to emigrate to the alternative homeland.

In the absence of a unified Arab position and an Arab confrontation strategy, Israel has begun to rampage as it pleases and to carry out its designs. If these Arabs continue their current dependence on foreign solutions, they will wait a very long time and may not agree among themselves until it is too late.

TISHRIN Calls For 'Escalation' of Intifadah

JN1702085090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Feb 90

[From the press review]

[Text] On the subject of the appropriate response to the settlement policy, TISHRIN says in the "Behind the News" column: The Israeli settlement policy cannot be separated from the strategy of aggression, expansion, annexation, and the expulsion of Arab citizens from their land. Neither can it be separated from the acts of annihilation carried out by the occupation forces in the occupied territory. This situation calls for urgent national and pan-Arab action against the dangers and challenges of the enemy settlement and expansionist policies. This action should include not only the continuation and escalation of the intifadah, but also effective and superior military methods, including armed struggle and resistance operations of every kind against the Zionist enemy. This should be our response to the settlement policy, our rejection of the enemy's denial of our people's right and aspiration to self-determination and its disregard for the components of a just, comprehensive, and real peace—peace based on Israel's complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory and on guaranteeing the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable rights.

Call No. 52 reiterated the need for consolidating the intifadah, reinforcing it through militant action, and giving it proper protection. In this call, the intifadah leadership urged Palestinian strike forces in occupied Arab territory to intensify their attacks on Zionist settlers to prevent the settlement of new Jews in the Palestinian Arab territory and to strike at the settlement positions and strongholds through which the occupation forces intend to establish new aggressive and expansionist positions for furthering the Zionist strategy of hegemony and annexation of Arab territory. This is because the enemy only understands the language of force and resistance and because what has been taken by force can only be regained by force. This has been demonstrated by the confrontation with the occupation and by the experience of peoples who have triumphed over their enemies.

Government Urged To Foil E. Beirut 'Conspiracy'

JN2002075090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Feb 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Dear listeners, AL-BA'TH's editorial for today deals with the situation in Lebanon. The paper says: The legitimate Lebanese Government—which came to spread its control over all Lebanese territories through the will of all the Lebanese and Arabs and the international community—will, at the proper time, find itself unable to stand idle in the face of the barbaric destruction of a part of Lebanon that constitutes almost half of the Lebanese capital. The legitimate Lebanese Government's responsibilities will force it to put an end to that abnormal state of affairs which, until now, has prevented Lebanese unity and the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement and deprived Lebanon of the blessings of security and stability that can be achieved under the banner of reconciliation and national unity, for which there is no alternative.

On the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says: Such a conspiracy cannot deceive anyone because even the most simpleminded of the Lebanese people understand that it as a conspiracy to fragment and partition Lebanon. Although this conspiracy seems as if it is a war between 'Awn and Ja'ja', its real objective is to prepare Lebanon for partition and bring about Arab indifference by urging Arabs to be patient, exercise self-restraint, and refrain from settling matters and foiling the conspiracy and those behind it.

Syria, which placed at the top of its priorities the protection of Lebanon, the defense of its Arab character and unity, and the prevention of partition in any way possible, is determined to achieve the pan-Arab objective in Lebanon. It is also determined to protect and support the Arab unanimity behind the legitimate Lebanese Government, which has a national and pan-Arab responsibility to put an end to the tragedy in East Beirut. Ending this issue will not only serve Lebanon's cause but all Arab causes because the target of this conspiracy is the same—the unity of the Arab nation and its land and objectives.

Press Calls For End to 'Tragedy' in East Beirut

JN1702092290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Feb 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Today's press commentaries deal with the situation in Lebanon in light of the tragedy in East Beirut and the need to support the legitimate government's efforts to save Lebanon.

TISHRIN says: The tragedy in East Beirut cannot continue; a courageous act of retribution is needed to save the citizens and guarantee their safety. Prominent figures in East Beirut are required, before others, to announce clearly their condemnation of this great crime, declare their affiliation with the legitimate government, and request decisive intervention to save Lebanese citizens. The legitimate government alone can save Lebanon; and the national reconciliation government represents the best formula to end the Lebanese crisis, to spread the government's authority and the rule of law and the Constitution, and to disband all militias.

On the same topic, AL-THAWRAH comments: The silence of any party on this crime must be considered part of the crime; and hesitation to adopt a clear and definite stand amounts to not taking a stand at all. And speaking in diplomatic language, both silence and hesitation are detrimental to Lebanon and the Arabs. The result of such policies will be to allow the criminal to enjoy seeing his victims fall and to continue his plot; and the killing will continue in cold blood. The language with which the world dealt with 'Awn and his mutiny—the language calling for understanding, conciliation, dialogue, and other appeasing and opportunist words—has completely failed in light of the escalation of madness in East Beirut. With the river of blood flowing in the East Beirut streets, such language is no longer acceptable. Such a brutal massacre would not have taken place under the authority of the legitimate government. Preventing the legitimate government from playing its national role with advice and preaching has resulted in this massacre against the Lebanese people—with all the pains, problems, and fractures that it will leave in the Lebanese body, values, and social relations. What more do the nation's enemies want?

Once again, we must be reminded of principles and constants at stake. Al-Asad's Syria keeps its promise to support the legitimate government in Lebanon with everything it needs to stop this ugly massacre committed against our people in East Beirut and to end the serious disease represented and embodied by 'Awn. Syria supports all that is required to implement the al-Ta'if agreement. What is happening in Lebanon cannot be tolerated. Is there a place for more silence?

Al-Ahmar, Mashariqah Confer With Communist Team

JN1902104590 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Damascus, 19 Feb (SANA)—Comrades 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and deputy chairman of the National Progressive Front, have received Yusuf Faysal, secretary general of the Central Committee and members of the Political Bureau of the Syrian Communist Party. The conferees exchanged views on relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Syrian Communist Party and their common role within the National Progressive Front together with the other parties.

The talks showed agreement on the various issues related to our joint march in Syria and a common desire to reinforce cooperation and joint action. The conferees asserted the need to exert more efforts and activities to strengthen the role of the National Progressive Front and to develop its formulas of action in the service of our people's march and the objectives of our nation to build a new society, confront challenges, and overcome the difficulties and obstacles on the path of the current Arab struggle.

The conferees also asserted their adherence to the national progressive course of Syria and its principled constants under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. The conferees called for concentrating efforts on strengthening Arab solidarity and mobilizing potential to confront Zionism and imperialism and their schemes in the Arab region.

30 Civil Servants Said Dismissed for 'Dishonesty'

JN1802182690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] In Damascus, the SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY said today that 30 civil servants have been dismissed for dishonesty and misconduct. The agency said those dismissed included five engineers and six managers and assistant managers of public companies affiliated with several ministries.

Over 1,000 civil servants were previously dismissed and referred to the courts as part of a clean-up campaign initiated by the Syrian authorities about two years ago with the aim of improving the Syrian economic situation.

Afghanistan

Kabul Hit on Anti-Soviet Uprising Anniversary

BK1902143090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1413 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb 19 (AFP)—Afghan rebels fired at least four rockets into Kabul Monday [19 February], the 10th anniversary of the first uprising here against the Soviet occupation, leaving one dead and 17 injured, a government spokesman said.

Security was tight throughout the city for fear of a mujahidin show of strength to mark the mowing down of hundreds of anti-Soviet protesters by the police in 1980.

The spokesman and eyewitnesses said three of the long-range cluster rockets impacted in a housing area near the Kabul airport and one slammed into the fashionable suburb of Wazir Akbar Khan where most diplomats stay.

There was no report of the airport, a favourite mujahidin target, being hit.

The attack followed a barrage of 10 rockets on the city Sunday in which six civilians were killed and 24 injured, the spokesman said, adding that most of Sunday's rockets hit an industrial site northeast of the city.

The only other reports of mujahidin resistance action elsewhere in the country came from the eastern provinces, where the spokesman said a total of 10 people, some of them military, were killed and 17 injured in rocket attacks on the battle-scarred cities of Jalalabad and Khowst.

A privately-owned hotel in Jalalabad was damaged in rocket fire between February 16 and 17, he said.

The spokesman also denied reports from Pakistan-based opposition commanders which said the post of Torghar near the Pakistan border some 15 kilometres (nine miles) from Khowst had been captured, but said government troops there were under heavy weapons fire.

Kabul came under a blistering rocket attack on December 27, the 10th anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, when 52 missiles pounded civilian areas killing dozens of people.

Soviet Envoy Warns of Reprisals

BK1802142690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1416 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb 18 (AFP)—Moscow's ambassador to Afghanistan on Sunday [18 February] warned of "cruel" reprisals if Afghan resistance guerrillas rocketted the Kabul Airport in a bid to damage Soviet aircraft.

"The Soviet Embassy has information...that the armed opposition and their patrons are intensifying their efforts to break the air bridge between Afghanistan and our country," Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov told reporters here.

"If even one Soviet citizen suffers from one of these jet missiles, our reaction will be most cruel. This is not a threat, it is a reality," he said, adding that a massive attack was planned on the airport for Monday when a Soviet Aeroflot passenger jet is scheduled to land.

Mr. Pastukhov said that an attempt was made by the mujahidin on February 2 to shoot down a Soviet Il-76 transport plane with a U.S.-made Stinger surface-to-air missile as it was approaching Kabul Airport.

Informed sources said the attempt was made by a lone man from within Kabul City limits, but the missile had missed and the man captured.

Kabul is supplied daily from Moscow by a massive airlift.

1 Killed, 13 Wounded in Attack

LD1902174190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] As result of the launch of four U.S. missiles by the Pakistani-backed extremists at Kabul city's residential areas today, one of our compatriots was martyured and 13 were wounded. The BAKHTAR International Agency [BIA] military section reports that the wounded were taken to hospital and are under treatment. The missiles were of the type that scatter mines and the mines were cleared and neuralized by the security forces. Material losses were also inflicted as a result of the hits.

According to another report, the organs of the Ministry of State Security today carried out mopping up operations today in Kabul province's Shakardara district to prevent the terroristic and sabotage activities of the Pakistani-linked extemists. The BIA military section reports that as a result of this operation [word indistinct] Stinger missiles, 30 kg of explosive material were discovered.

Soviet Envoy Concerned About Aid to Tajikistan

BK1902005090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0006 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb 18 (AFP)—Moscow is concerned by stepped-up aid to Tajik nationalists by Afghan mujahidin groups which are funded by U.S. and Pakistani intelligence agencies, the Soviet Union's top envoy to Kabul said Sunday [18 February].

"We are greatly concerned with the intensified efforts made from Afghan territory to destabilise Tajikistan and other areas," Soviet ambassador Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov told Western journalists here.

"We know that with the direct assistance of the special services of the U.S. and Pakistan, the Union of Northern People was created.

"It is a well-known fact, it is recognised everywhere," he said of the union, a shadowy grouping of Tajiks, many of them mujahidin members fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Mr. Pastukhov said the union and other groups were smuggling arms, subversive literature, money and drugs across the long Afghan-Soviet border to "elements trying to destabilize" the southern Soviet republics.

But he said that Soviet troops were doing their "utmost" to police the border and that he had no plans to consult President Najibullah on the matter of stepped-up security on the Afghan side of the frontier.

He also stressed that Moscow had "no plans to take measures on Afghan territory" to curb the smuggling, which has been reported by several American journalists travelling with the mujahidin in the northern provinces.

The ambassador was careful to disassociate the U.S. and Pakistani Governments from the groups funneling aid to the republics, emphasising that it was the work of the "special services" of both the countries.

Mr. Najibullah said Saturday that steps had been taken to curb the smuggling and that his government would never allow aid to cross the border, but added that it would be counterproductive to think of the Soviet-Afghan frontier as "a sort of great wall of China."

Mr. Pastukhov also said that to "protect the border 100 percent would be impossible," and added that he felt the mujahidin groups involved in extending aid were "... lying, exaggerating their role to receive more aid."

In the past two weeks, mujahidin leaders based in Pakistan have called on "all Moslems" to back the unrest in the Soviet southern republics, and Sunday the ambassador linked Pakistani aid to the mujahidin with what he termed were efforts to upset the situation in India's Kashmir State.

At least 22 people have died in ethnic clashes and rioting in Dushanbe, capital of the Soviet republic of Tajikistan, which is 56 percent Moslem and borders China and Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Operations in Provinces Reported

BK1902162090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] According to reports, fierce fighting is continuing between mujahidin and Kabul regime troops for control of Kanchhi Tora Ghora near Khowst in Afghanistan. According to the news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], the attack by Kabul regime troops on Tora Ghora has been repulsed. The mujahidin occupied the area last Friday [16 February]. According to the news agency two ammunition depots and some heavy weapons of the Kabul regime were destroyed and about 40 Kabul regime troops joined the mujahidin.

In another operation in two towns in Konduz, four Kabul regime troops were killed and six others wounded. The mujahidin destroyed three posts and two tanks of Kabul regime troops in Baghlan Province.

London Paper Interviews President Najibullah

LD1802120690 London THE SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT in English 18 Feb 90 p 13

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Afghan President Najibullah by unidentified SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT correspondent at the Presidential Palace in Kabul on 16 February]

[Text] A year ago, President Sayyed Muhammad Najibullah of Afghanistan was probably the world's least-envied leader. After the final pullout of Soviet troops it was widely assumed that his tenure in office could be counted in months (CIA) if not weeks (M16).

The fall of the man nicknamed the Ox of Kabul was expected to be rapid, complete and, quite possibly, fatal.

Last Friday, a year to the day since the last Soviet soldier left Afghanistan, President Najibullah, in an exclusive interview with THE SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT, seemed more bullish and immovable than ever.

"I am not tired," he said, grinning. "In my job you do not have the right to be tired. On the contrary, when you serve the people's aspirations, you get more energy."

Speaking from one of the state rooms of the once Royal, now Presidential, Palace in Kabul and dressed in grey battle fatigues, the 42-year-old President exuded charm and confidence. As we spoke a posse of presidential guards, armed with submachine guns, kept a watchful eye outside the room.

"As President, elected by the Afghan Loya Jerga (Tribal Council) representative of the people and General Executive of a party which is 200,000 strong, I am not representing a person, but a political, social, economic and military system which has proved its worth by its survival over the last year," he said. Dr. Najibullah said he believed that the prowess of his army, support from the Soviet Union and domestic political reform were all responsible for his success.

But in another sense, Najibullah is winning the war because the Mujahidin, the American-backed guerrillas opposing his regime, have thrown it away. Despite optimistic Western predictions, the Mujahidin alliance has been critically fragmented by vicious internal feuding.

The Soviets have resolutely refused to sacrifice Najibullah, in spite of repeated accusations from American that this is holding up the peace process. A Soviet official has said that to do would be out of line with their hands-off approach to developments in Eastern Europe. A peace plan unveiled by Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, on Wednesday, calling for demilitarisation and inter-Afghan dialogue was described by Western diplomats as having nothing new in it.

America has consistently painted Najibullah as a KGB stooge, a dictator and a bully. Until recently, the United States refused to negotiate with the Afghan regime until he was removed. However, U.S. officials have conceded that negotiations could begin on the basis that Najibullah would quite after the talks had taken place. Naturally enough, Dr. Najibullah is outraged by the suggestion.

"They have tried so hard and failed—now the Americans have to accept the realities of the situation," he said. "Would you consider it fair if I said 'I want peace, but first of all the seven Mujahidin alliance leaders must resign'?

"Najib is someone," he said, pointing to his own barrel chest, "who is a cultured, democratic person. On the other side, there are drug-smugglers and extremists. The Americans trespassed international norms by invading Panama to bring Noriega to trial for drugs. Meanwhile they accept a blacker person like Gulbuddin Hikmatyar (the fundamentalist Mujahidin leader) who has admitted that he has factories producing narcotics. But the Americans are gradually changing their position, and coming towards a sound and realistic policy."

He has equal scorn for the British policy of supporting the Mujahidin. "If Mrs. Thatcher does not stop supplying Blowpipe missiles, she may find the British people will not renew their support for her," he said, rather optimistically.

This time last year the Afghan government was, next to Albania, the most diplomatically isolated in the world. Most embassies had been closed and diplomats scattered, fearing a bloodbath. But proof that the West is now beginning to accept the permanence of a regime it cannot affect came last month with news that the French would shortly reopen their embassy in Kabul. Other Western countries are sure to follow.

While the President boasts of introducing needed democratic reform (three years before the countries of Eastern Europe) the grip of his party the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan], on Afghan politics is still absolute, as is Najibullah's grip on the party itself.

A huge, soft-spoken man with a distinctive gravelly laugh, Najibullah is nonetheless feared rather than loved by the people of Kabul. He has ruthlessly used Khad, the notorious Afghan secret service, to prevent subversion, while ensuring that possible political rivals are kept firmly in the background.

The son of an Ahmedzai tribal chief, Dr. Najibullah's belief in his own moral rectitude is strong. "As a trained doctor, I used to treat individuals," he said. "Now I treat the nation as a whole."

Najibullah maintains that he is a nationalist, rather than a Communist. While critical of the Soviet decision to invade Afghanistan, he "in no way rejects the services rendered by the officers and soldiers of the Soviet Union to the people of Afghanistan."

Soviet troops may no longer patrol the steets of Kabul, but Dr. Najibullah is under no illusions about where his allegiances lie.

"Even before the revolution, we received help from Russia. Inevitably we need to receive assistance from the Soviet Union now."

Minister Warns Pakistan Against 'Misadventure'

BK1802090890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has warned Pakistan against any misadventure on the India-Pakistan border in Kashmir. Addressing a news conference at Ahmedabad this morning, he said India is a peace-loving country willing to have friendly relations with all its neighbors. However, if Pakistan commits any mistake of misadventure on our border, it will have to repent for this.

The home minister reiterated that India has got proof to prove that Pakistan is inciting the people in the Pakistan occupied Kashmir to cross the actual line of control. It has provided monetary and other assistance to the subversives in Jammu and Kashmir and even some training centers are being operated by it to train the subversives.

Mr. Sayeed said the former governments at the center and Jammu and Kashmir are responsible for the deterioration of the situation in the state in the last three years. He said that no action was taken against the antinational activities of the subversives during this period. He welcomed the changed stand of the United States on the Kashmir issue and said for the first time it has favored the resolving of the Kashmir issue under Simla Agreement.

Spokesman on Proof of Pakistani Role in Kashmir

BK1602150090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] India has regretted Pakistan's tendency to ignore evidences of its interference in India's affairs which has been provided from time to time. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi today that Pakistan's rejection does not erase the credibility of such evidence. He was reacting to a query regarding Pakistan's rejection of detailed evidence recently submitted by India on its involvement in Jammu and Kashmir. The spokesman said the rejection is in line with Islamabad's earlier patterns of behavior.

Governor Dissolves Jammu, Kashmir Assembly

BK1902161190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly has been dissolved. A notification to this effect was issued by the governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, in Srinagar today. The state assembly was under suspended animation since the imposition of governor's rule on the 19th of last month.

In a statement, Mr. Jag Mohan said the decision is a positive step toward attaining complete normalcy in the state. He said events of the last one or two years have demonstrated that the assembly could not even pretend to have the representative character.

Mr. Jag Mohan warned that no vested interests and unpatriotic elements will be allowed to trifle with national integrity by negative and subversive slogans. He appealed to the people, particularly the youth, to realize the futility of violence and advised them to play a positive role in building a strong state by making use of liberal provisions of the Constitution. The governor said the holding of elections in the state depends on the speed with which peace and normalcy return to the state.

Meanwhile, curfew in Srinagar, which was relaxed at 0500 this morning, was reimposed at 0900 for apprehension of breach of peace because of a demonstration. The situation in the city and elsewhere in the valley remained by and large peaceful.

Commenting on the dissolution of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, the leader of the National Conference parliamentary party, Professor Saifuddin Soz, said it is not a well thought-out measure and will have no impact on the situation in the state. He said both the center and the state are still treating the situation as a law and order problem.

The Congress-I spokesman severely criticized the governor's action and said this will further alienate the administration from the people.

Reacting to a statement made by the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, at Ahmedabad yesterday, the party general secretary, Mr. K.N. Singh, denied that the previous central and Jammu and Kashmir governments were responsible for the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. He told newsmen in New Delhi that Mr. Sayeed as a former union minister and the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh [State] Congress-I Committee president is fully responsible for the present situation.

The chairman of the state Janata Dal parliamentary board, Thakur Puran Singh, and the general secretary of the state BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Mr. Chamanlal Gupta, and two former ministers, Mr. R.S. Chib and Mr. Talib Hussain, have welcomed the dissolution of the Jammu and Kashmir state assembly.

3 Killed, 7 Wounded in Srinagar Police Firing

BK1702155590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] In Srinagar, three persons were killed and seven injured today when police fired to repulse an aggressive mob in Navabazaar area. The firing took place when some miscreants in the crowd snatched a rifle from a police personnel and fired some rounds on the police patrol deployed in the area. There was an attempt to set fire to the (Raimbari) police station in the city. Two policemen were injured. Elsewhere in the state capital there were three bomb blasts without much damage.

An official spokesman said that six persons were arrested near the line of actual control while trying to cross over to Pakistan.

The state Congress-I president, Mr. Mohammad Shafi Qureshi, has urged the center to convene a special session of Parliament to discuss the situation in the Kashmir Valley. He was talking to newsmen in New Delhi today.

A delegation of members of Parliament belonging to the National Conference met the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] today. They appealed to him to intervene to help restore normalcy in Kashmir.

Nagaland Official Escapes Assassination Attempt

BK1902124390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] A message just received says that the Nagaland chief minister, Mr. S.C. Jameer, escaped an assassination attempt when some unknown assailants fired upon the car in which he was traveling near Kohima a short while ago. The bodyguard and the driver of the chief minister were killed. The secretary to the chief minister told our correspondent that Mr. Jameer's wife was also injured. She has been rushed to hospital in Kohima.

Political Party Leader Shot Dead in Punjab

BK1802091890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] In Punjab, two persons, including a BJP [Bhartiya Janata Party] leader, have been killed and two others injured since last night. Some terrorists went to the farmhouse of Mr Sakichand, president of the Balachor unit of BJP in Hoshiarpur District, and shot him dead this morning. The other person was killed by terrorists in Batala. Terrorists also kidnapped a doctor from Ferzepour District.

Iran

Antiregime Protests Staged in Varamin, Mashhad

TA1902094590 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Reports at hand indicate that yesterday, Saturday, demonstrations were held in Varamin and Mashhad against the Islamic Republic. In Varamin a large number of citizens displayed their dissatisfaction at the continuation of the Islamic Republic's life in various ways and chanted slogans against its leaders.

A report from Mashhad indicates that yesterday, Saturday, slogans against the government and leaders of the Islamic Republic were chanted at the Imam Reza Shrine courtyard. On the basis of these reports, the support of a large number of the regime's guards and security agents with the protestors was very evident in the demonstrations of Tehran, Varamin, and Mashhad. This significant development is continuing.

A report from the capital indicates that last night thousands of pamphlets of the Darafsh-e Kavyani Organization were distributed in the Tehran Pars and Yusefabad Districts of Tehran.

Another report from the capital indicates that the Islamic Republic's leaders have become very alarmed at the freedom-seeking struggles of the Iranian nation. For the second time in 24 hours they took part last evening in an emergency and secret meeting of the National Security Council in order to adopt decisions on ways to confront the escalating wave of the oppressed nation's struggles.

Reports from several neighborhoods of the capital indicate that the regime has in effect imposed martial law in Tehran, but the people are not afraid of the regime and its agents. The people are determined to continue the struggle until final victory and the establishment of the rule of justice and law.

Demonstrations Described

TA1902093190 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] On Friday afternoon Tehran witnessed the people's massive and widespread demonstrations against the Islamic Republic regime. Our fellow strugglers have reported that after leaving Amjadiyeh Stadium on Friday afternoon, tens of thousands of Tehran citizens staged demonstrations and marches in protest against the intolerable situation in the country. In a short time thousands more joined the protestors and the demonstrations spread rapidly to other parts of the city.

Our fellow strugglers have reported that in Fawziyeh Square, where the people's demonstrations against the regime were very intense, the people tore up pictures of Ruhollah Khomeyni and set fire to several buses belonging to the United Bus Company. In the course of the demonstrations the demonstrators chanted slogans against the regime and its leaders. In these demonstrations, which lasted several hours, thousands of pictures of Reza Pahlavi, the king of Iran, were distributed in Tehran's streets and were enthusiastically received by the people.

A report indicates that after leaving the 100,000-seat Azadi Stadium, the people staged sporadic antiregime demonstrations in Tehran's Shahyad Square as well as on Eisenhower and Shah Reza Streets. Another report indicates that during yesterday's antiregime demonstrations by the people, one bank branch and several government buildings were set on fire. In several parts of the city the regime's agents tried to prevent the spread of demonstrations by attacking the people, but each time they were forced to retreat. Our fellow strugglers add that bloody clashes took place in different parts of the city between the people and the regime's suppressive agents. Scores of demonstrators were wounded and the condition of some of them were reported to be grave.

The reports indicate that at the height of the people's antiregime demonstrations in Tehran, in several instances a number of guards, even from among the anti-riot squads, joined the people and clashed with the regime's agents.

Dailies Report Soccer Fan Riot in Tehran

LD1702142490 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1239 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb 17 (TANJUG)—Tehran today failed to officially confirm reports about the casualties in yesterday's riots of soccer fans in Tehran, when the Islamic Revolutionary Guards (Pasdaran) were forced to intervene.

After they learnt that a match between Estiqlal and Parsi, which was to determine the first place in the division, was postponed, the soccer fans started breaking everything in sight on the stadium and continued with the demolition of the neighbouring streets.

Criticizing radio and television stations for not broadcasting the information about the postponement in advance, the Iranian dailies say that the vandalism of soccer fans seen yesterday has never been seen before in Iran.

Late Announcement Blamed

LD1702163790 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—Police arrested 30 hooligans for stoning passing cars and nearby buildings at the Shirudi stadium Friday [17 February], when a protest against the postponement of crucial ties of Tehran's football club championship was turned into irresponsible behaviour. After due interrogation some of the detainees were released, said a police official.

Irate fans who had not been informed in time of the postponement of the matches, chanted slogans against Football Federation officials, while some tried to vent their anger by throwing stones at the stadium. However, prompt action by the police who restored law and order minimised the damage to public property.

Meanwhile, the sport media believe that the untoward incident could have been avoided with efficiency on the part of all concerned.

In their sporting columns today, several Tehran dailies, said the cause of the protest was because the radio and television did not announce in time the postponement of the finals, causing people who had come from afar and had started queuing up at the stadium hours earlier, to face closed doors.

Meanwhile, head of the Tehran Football Board, Hassan Aminbakhsh, said matches could not be held at all Friday, as the field was logged with water due to the heavy rain and snow the night before. "24 hours later it is not still possible to hold the matches," he said.

Aminbakhsh said he was present at the Shirudi stadium Friday morning and saw the ground under 10 to 15 centimeters of water, with frozen patches here and there on the field. "We immediately contacted the Azadi stadium but were informed that the field there was also not suitable for the matches," he said.

Aminbaksh was resentful of the radio, and said although the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA) wired the postponement hours before the scheduled start of the matches, the radio did not broadcast the same until its daily afternoon news at 14:00 hours that is a whole hour after the expected start of the game.

Referring to the weekend holiday on Friday, when the print dailies do not appear, Aminbakhsh said the radio was expected to broadcast the posteponement of the football matches several times.

"The Friday morning programme on the radio commands a fairly large audience and the airing of the posteponement at that time, would have saved the fans the trouble of queuing up at closed doors, which triggered the unfortunate incident," said Aminbakhsh.

NEWSWEEK Banned for Carrying Rushdie Interview

LD1902175890 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 19, IRNA—The February 12 issue of the American magazine 'NEWSWEEK' was banned by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education for carrying an interview from sentenced apostate Salman Rushdie.

The Indian born British author of the blasphemous novel 'The Satanic Verses' has been in hiding in Britain under police protection since the late Imam Khomeyni sanctioned his execution on February 14, 1989.

According to Islamic sharia, Rushdie, born to a Muslim family, is considered an apostate and therefore should be killed for blaspheming Islam and Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in his novel.

Pakistan has also banned the NEWSWEEK issue.

Anti-Rushdie March Held in Tehran 18 Feb

LD1802163790 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] On the anniversary of the religious decree of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his soul, concerning the author of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses", thousands of university students and other classes of the people from Tehran marched from Tehran University toward the British Embassy today.

Carrying photographs of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni and His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the marchers shouted slogans condemning the conspiracy of the publication of "The Satanic Verses" and world arrogance's support for that conspiracy. They called for the execution of Imam Khomeyni's decree.

At the end of the march, a 10-point resolution was read out and one of the students deported from Britain conveyed a message of solidarity from Muslim students in Britain. Then Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari made a speech about Imam Khomeyni's historical decree and the revolutionary movement of the Muslims in the affair.

Execution of British Spy Urged

LD1802192790 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA—Thousands of people took to the streets of the capital today to denounce the West's cultural plot against Islam and Muslims in interfering with the course of divine justice.

The massive rally starting from Tehran University marched towards the former British Embassy, where marchers condemned western support especially that of the British Government for the apostate writer of the blasphemous novel 'The Satanic Verses'.

Apostacy carries death penalty in Islam, and the demonstration was staged on the first anniversary of the decree of the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni sanctioning the execution of Salman Rushdie for insulting values held dear by the world's one billion-plus Muslims.

'Thatcher is playing with fire by supporting Rushdie' cried the the marchers against the British premier, and set fire to the British and U.S. flags in front of the former British mission.

British interests in Tehran are under Swedish care since the rupture of ties after a week's ultimatum by Iran last year over British lawlessness in the Satanic affair.

Muslims worldwide have sworn to carry out the death sentence, and the Tehran demonstrators cautioned the west against the consequences of shielding Rushdie from justice.

A communique was released at the end of the rally, calling for the execution of British spy Roger Cooper, now serving imprisonment in Iran.

It reiterated support for the imam's decree against Rushdie and urged the Majles to pass a law curbing economic and trade relations with Britain in the wake of the limitations imposed on Iranian citizens by London.

The communique condemned the deportation of Iranian students from Britain and called for the release of Iranian student Mehrdad Kowkabi who is in a British jail for supporting the Islamic revolution.

'We demand the expulsion of British journalists from Iran as a retaliation to London's act,' it added, and said Iranian students should be recalled from Britain due to 'the insecure educational environment' in that country.

The gathering heard a deported student, who elaborated on the inhuman and wicked attitude of the British police toward Iranian Muslim students. He said British Muslims told him upon his departure from London that they would execute Salman Rushdie themselves.

Also speaking to the marchers was Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Ansari, in charge of the institute for publishing Imam Khomeyni's works.

He stressed Imam Khomeyni's decree is binding as long as Rushdie, and 'Muslims are obliged to carry out the edict whatever the circumstances.' [sentence as received]

Edict Implementation 'Obligatory'

LD1802141890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] On the aniversary of the historic edict [hokm] issued by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be admitted to paradise—on the execution of Salman Rushdie, apostate author of "The Satanic Verses," and noting the further endorsement of that edict by the great leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, Mr Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, reaffirmed in a message the legal and judicial issues pertaining to Imam Khomeyni's decree. He said: From a legal and judicial point of view, we categorically declare that that edict was not merely a fatwa [religious edict], but a judicial and authoritative decree [hkom qaza'i va qanuni], the implementation of which is obligatory.

His eminence—may his soul be admitted to paradise—in accordance with the principles of Islamic jurisprudence, graciously decreed that this criminal must be sentenced to death. This is not an opinion or a fatwa on which another ruler or judge might voice his views. This is a decree, and like all other judicial issues and sentences is unalterable and must be enacted. By the same token we now should pay attention to the nature of its implementation and predict any problems that might arise in the course of its implementation, bearing in mind that any person killed in the course of executing that decree would be a martyr. That is exactly like the decree of jihad, the implementation of which could lead to martyrdom for some.

As you are aware, in the Islamic system of government, the rank of supreme jurisconsult is that of the principle judge, who has vested in him the ability to assign the responsibility of judgment to the others, or else to conduct it himself. This is a system that also has been stipulated in the Constitution. Therefore, as the official responsible for the Islamic Republic of Iran's judiciary, I declare to all Muslims around the world, and specifically those who in any way are capable of implementing this sentence, that that is a decree issued by the founder of the Islamic Republic, his eminence the imam—may his soul be admitted to paradise—and the leader of the Islamic revolution, and the implementation of any judicial decree [hokm qaza'i] is obligatory. For all those who are in a position to carry it out, any kind of shirking will be considered a crime and a sin. We are certain that sooner or later, this decree will be carried out through the strength of the Muslims.

Deputies Call on USSR To Show 'Self-Control'

LD2002133490 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 20, IRNA—Some 180 parliamentarians today called on the Soviet leadership to heed the "legitimate demands of Muslims throughout the Soviet Union", and show self-control in dealing with them.

In a letter which addressed itself to the Soviet Government they said "long since passed are the days when mass suppression was the policy."

The letter also expressed sympathy with Soviet Muslims for the martyrdom of some of their brothers-in-faith during recent turmoil in the republics of Azerbaijan and Tajikistan.

The Majles deputies also expressed hope in their letter that the Soviet Government would not fall a prey to U.S. schemes.

TEHRAN TIMES on Uzbekistan Events

LD1902092990 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 19, (IRNA)—An English-language daily Monday elaborated on recent events in the Central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan and reminded the Soviet officials, "use of force to suppress popular grievances will prove a fast-loosing-effect sedative only."

TEHRAN TIMES, in an editorial titled "Nations' Solidarity Faces acid test in USSR", said that two issues were reasons contributing to establishing a mood of restiveness and riot in Uzbekistan.

"The Russians have a very strong presence in Uzbekistan especially in Tashkent, the republic's capital which is the USSR's fourth most important city," wrote the article.

The second factor, "almost all sensitive and key positions of the republic are held by White Russians," added the editorial.

The daily noted that recent events have demonstrated the central government's discriminatory policies "prejudicial to Asian republics as compared against the European members of the Union."

TEHRAN TIMES added: "Even 'glasnost' has been forced down the throats of the Asian republics by the force of bayonet. From this point of view it has to be admitted, regrettably though, that the double-standards employed by Moscow in handling such affairs mark a continuation of the discriminatory policies of the former Soviet governments by President Gorbachev."

A famous slogan of Lenin, "nations' solidarity" has in fact led to a domination over other nationalities in the Union by the Russians, it said.

But, the paper concluded: "The world now expects President Gorbachev to truly materialize this slogan now in this time of change in the Union."

Visa Agreements for Azerbaijanis on Border

LD1702184790 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—Iran and the Soviet Union have agreed to grant 30-day travel permits to Azerbaijanis on both sides of the Aras River and to their other nationals near their other border on the eastern flank of the Caspian Sea. Since a British-mediated treaty between Iran and Russia in 1828 the River Aras has divided Azerbaijan and formed a natural border between the two countries.

According to two agreements signed Thursday [15 February] Iranian and Soviet nationals whose domicile is within 45 kilometers from the borders between the two countries on either side of the Caspian Sea are eligible for temporary travel to the other country four times a year, and while in the host country can travel within a radius of 45 kilometers from the border.

Those within the same proximity who happen to present an official invitation from relatives in the other country will be entitled to a 60-day stay. The Iranian and Soviet consular officials will issue visas to this latter category of travellers within three to 10 days from the date visa application is filed.

According to the agreement Iranian and Soviet nationals on a temporary visa in either country will be required to observe local laws and customs.

Iranian deputy foreign minister in charge of consular affairs Mojtaba Mir-Mehdi here today expressed pleasure with the agreement and predicted that it will greatly facilitate travel of Muslim frontiersmen across the borders between the two countries.

The two agreements were concluded here Thursday following a letter of understanding by the two countries in Moscow last June.

The agreements are initially for a period of three years, and may be repealed any time by either country upon a six-month notice.

Reza Pahlavi Sends Message to Nation

TA1902101490 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Message from the "Shah of Iran" Reza Pahlavi to the nation; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] My dear compatriots: Your demonstrations on the evening of 16 February in Tehran were the beginning of a new chapter in the 11-year relentless resistance of you, the Iranian people, against the usurpers of your rights. They are evidence of your invincible determination to become liberated from the fatal dictatorship of the Islamic Republic's regime.

You, the people of Tehran, proved to the world with your action that from your viewpoint all leaders, factions, and bands of the Islamic Republic are the same and share the regime's 11 years of crimes, and that they have no alternative but to yield to your suppressed demands.

I send my greetings while totally realizing the patriotic feelings of you, the aware and struggling Iranian people, and of all women and men who have risen courageously to achieve their freedom and who fear no obstacle. I am convinced that the Iranian people will spare no effort to achieve their rights and gain control over their destiny. I am determined to use all my potential and power until the nation achieves final victory, and will continue the struggle with the freedom-seeking strugglers until the homeland's liberation. May God safeguard Iran.

Velayati Receives 9-Party Afghan Mujahidin

LD1702185690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Members of the council of Afghanistan's nine-party coalition met Mr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs. After the meeting, our reporter spoke with the spokesman of the nine-party coalitions's council. Let me draw your attention to a report about the meeting and the interview:

[Unidentified reporter] Following recent developments concerning the resolution of the Afghan problem, members of the council of Afghanistan's nine-party coalition discussed recent events with our country's foreign minister. In the meeting, which was also attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ebrahimi, the supreme jurisconsult's [Khamene'i's] representative on the nine-party coalition's council, the means of attaining greater unity in the ranks of Afghan Muslim revolutionaries was discussed after an examination of the latest political developments in Afghanistan.

In the course of a brief speech, Mr Velayati, the foreign minister, then spoke about recent developments and said: The best lever, which will prove constructive in Afghanistan's developments, is cohesion, solidarity, and coordination among Afghan mujahidin.

Hojjat ol-Eslam (?Akhlaqi), spokesman for the council of Afghanistan's nine-party coalition, stressed in an interview after the meeting that the nine-party council is opposed to the possible participation of Najibullah in the future government and it will not recognize any rights of Zahir Shah in the future government.

He said they want an independent and free government in Afghanistan and a government which is not in any way affiliated with the East or the West. Our criticism of the recent Soviet proposal is that the regulations for elections must be drawn up by a joint committee of the seven-party alliance, based in Pakistan, and the nine-party coalition, based in Tehran, and other independent mujahidin groups.

He also said: [Begin recording] [Akhlaqi] The opinion of the coalition council about the Afghanistan issue is a continuation of the jihad and struggle until ultimate victory. [as heard] As for proposals put forth by others, we believe we must determine our destiny ourseleves and we must have our own ideas about our future. The proposal must come from us. Others must not advise us as guardians.

[Reporter] Has there been any reaction from the Afghan mujahidin in response to the Soviet proposal, the 10-point plan?

[Akhlaqi] We have, of course, been asked that question before and we said that we do not accept anyone as guardian. We will think about our problems ourselves. [end recording]

Velayati Receives SAIRI Leader Hakim

LD1702194490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati this morning. In the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim spoke about instances of human rights violations by the Iraqi regime and, referring to that regime's recent crimes against the southern tribes, and the massacres, violations, house-burning, and looting of property there, he said: despite a strict siege of the area by government forces, the Muslim forces' resistance continues.

Mr Velayati condemned the Iraqi regime's violation of human rights and its inhuman measures in southern Iraq, and stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for making the oppressed voice of the Iraqi nation heard in the world and for informing world opinion of the crimes committed in southern Iraq and the violations of human rights there will continue.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon

LD1602163790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1127 GMT 16 Feb 90

[First Friday prayers sermon by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 16 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. [passage omitted] In our debate regarding social justice and Islam being a way of living and a program for life, I devoted two or three sermons to the importance of labor and production, as well as making efforts to live according to the Islamic viewpoint. The sum total of all those remarks was the point that Islam is not a one-dimensional faith; rather, it encompasses all dimensions of life. It realistically calls on Muslims to make use of all their natural resources and divine gifts. [passage omitted]

We thought of another point in our assessments which we deem it necessary to raise as we continue the debate. Of course, once the debate on production is concluded—and we do not intend to resume the same debate—we will have a brief talk on consumption. That is, once we are encouraged to make efforts to produce goods and create wealth, then the subject of ways of consumption comes our way, which is a separate and independent chapter. I think I must devote one or two sermons to that topic.

However, in the space between debate on production and another debate on consumption, I deem it necessary to refer to another dimension of the topic. That is, we must not assess the topic from a single dimension, and we must not allow the spirit of materialism, which by nature is strengthened through human instincts, to assume extreme positions.

The sum total of this debate was the point that any effort made to create wealth in Islamic society must be regarded as a valid effort. However, if we neglect an important point there, if we enter the area of acquiring wealth in a one-dimensional way, if we turn the resources into wealth through the spirit of materialism, we may encounter adverse results. [passage omitted]

What I intend to say in today's sermon on that topic is the explanation of that very point. If our endeavor is motivated by the spirit of materialism and if we accumulate riches with that intent. we may witness the mushrooming of many difficulties in the life of the society. Those difficulties may then destroy the positive effects of that endeavor. That is precisely the situation that has come about in the Western world, for the Westerners who, to be fair, must be said to have been fully successful in turning the earth's sources into wealth. [passage omitted]

Islam has a plan for it. When Islam encourages you to create wealth, then at the end, as I said in that Koranic verse, it reminds you of that very sensitive point so that the human mind is drawn to the inevitable end and fate. [passage omitted]

If a materialistic spirit engulfs a large part of society, then that society will be divided into two strata, one wealthy and the other deprived. That will make life miserable in that kind of a society. That materialism may be regarded as a pleasure for those who always want to enjoy privileges, but if you look at society in the form of a package, in such a society a very small minority usually can be extremely well-off, while the majority, the vast majority, find that their lives sink below the poverty line. Life in such a society is no source of pride, neither is it humane or sweet, nor can one eventually find salvation.

In addition to such disadvantages, a society of that kind cannot remain as it is. Usually when there is discrimination in a society—a minority having everything, while the vast majority is deprived of the resources of earth and divine gifts—such a society cannot survive. The majority of the people will eventually one day, through some voice, wake up and react. They will disrupt the natural tranquility and life of that society. It is not clear what will follow next. [passage omitted]

When we talk about more hard work and higher productivity, it should be stressed, there and then, if indulgence in waste, hoarding, amassing wealth, and not giving anything to others, existed alongside productivity, their negative effects would be very high. [passage omitted]

At present, one of the problems faced by our society is that we have a certain strata who pay their dues neither to God nor to the government or the people, and who, not satisfied with a legitimate income, resort to hoarding, black-marketing, profiteering at any cost, contraband, and violation of their society's laws. They even engage in narcotics smuggling, which has destroyed many families and created much havoc, all for the sake of a few pennies. They are the worst elements in society. [passage omitted] We hope to purge our society of such pests and leeches as soon as our society is presented with the chance to do so, when it has emerged from this unbalanced situation that resulted from the war, and similar issues. [passage omitted]

Second Sermon

LD1602180290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1204 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Second Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 16 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted] Today, in the light of the current domestic and international conditions, I shall focus on a specific discourse, the subject of which is the Islamic revolution, within which I have incorportated important international issues. God willing, my analysis will constitute a guide for our honorable people. Before embarking on that discourse, I have one or two points to mention pertaining to the recent commemorations and celebrations. The 1st Esfand [20 February] coincides with the [anniversary of the] martyrdom of a number of the most loyal companions of the imam and the revolution, during their flight to Ahvaz, one of whom was the imam's representative in the Guards Corps, the illustrious martyrs, Mr Mahallati, and the others comprised a number of honorable Majles representatives, as well as some of our country's dignitories and esteemed judges. They were martyred when their aircraft was hit by a missile, which was later discovered to have been a direct result of the Monafeqin's [Mojahedin-e Khalq] espionage activities. They had informed the Iraqis of that particular flight, hence the martyrdom of those innocent people in such a way. That is one example of the anti-Islamic and anti-humanitarian crimes, in violation of international regulations, perpetrated by the Ba'th Party in the course of the war. I extend my condolences to our dear nation, and the honorable families of those martyrs, for that tragedy.

Another point, which I shall briefly mention, before moving on concerns the government's five-year plan, which, praise be to God, was ratified by both the Majles and the honorable Council of Guardians, and recently put into effect. Our next year's budget has been drawn up in keeping with the [five-year] plan, which we shall submit to the Majles. Even before the ratification of that budget, we had started part of the five-year plan, some of which is applicable to this year, too. However, I shall only discuss one part of it, to which our people, specifically our producers should pay attention. To implement the plan, we have drawn up a program according to which the country's factories—our production centers—will be utilized in their full capacity. Their task is in two parts:

1. Some of them will receive foreign exchange from the government, and place their commodities at the disposal of the government, which are then used by us toward ration coupon allowances, [for] some of the cooperatives, or families of martyrs, and [in] other government allowances, so as to prevent the elimination of the assistance given to the people in the form of subsidies on some commodities. The main part of them is purchased with foreign exchange, a sufficient amount of which will

be placed at their [producers] disposal, by the government, for the running of their factories. Their produce will be much cheaper than what is sold in the free market today. If this trend of production spiral is carried out to the expected level, with the present government support, then the people's vital commodities will be produced in sufficient amounts in the community. As for those parts which are not produced domestically, we have asked the Central Bank, to allow the purchase of competitive foreign exchange so that they may be imported.

With the free foreign exchange rate set by the government, [reference to free foreign exchange rate set by the government to compete with the black-market rate] and made available to the people—for the production factories and imports—prices will be by far cheaper than those existing on the present free market. Therefore, I implore the factories to first use that opportunity to enter the field—if they have not already done so. Of course, a great many have already joined the field, and in the course of this period, have obtained $400-500 million; some face a real shortage, which we shall somehow resolve. Those who have not entered the field should do so. We expect our people to exert less pressure in connection with those commodities which are not more or less necessary, so as to prevent unnecessary pressure on the market until the situation assumes a more normal trend. We, likewise, expect merchants and salesmen to adapt themselves to current conditions and content themselves with an adequate profit, so that in the future, we may improve the unsatisfactory distribution conditions through the implementation of our plan. God willing, in the next few years, through the full implementation of our plan, we will lead our community toward the goal which we consider apt.

His Excellency, Mr Habibi, the deputy head of the Foundation for the Disabled, has mentioned something in connection to the census, and my request to all our dear disabled, is to fill in the questionnaires, so as to supply the foundation with complete information, so that the gentlemen [staff of the foundation] may draw up a comprehensive plan for the implementation of the commands of the great leadership on the provision of adequate welfare facilities for our dear ones.

The issues for today are two or three related ones all of which make one cohesive discussion and begin with the marches on 22 Bahman [11 February] and end with the issue of the book "The Satanic Verses." I hope my discussion is going to be an expressive one for you and for those who sometimes have questions and would like to hear remarks about that.

The very good and massive presence of our people in the marches of 22 Bahman should be viewed as an effective and very useful action worthy of praise and gratitude.

The world, those that usually look at our country's issues through non-Islamic and materialistic analyses, were not expecting that. Without any exaggeration and without talking idly, I want to say that the presence of the people, in such vast numbers and with those slogans, was indeed a strong iron fist on the mouth of malevolents who speak nonsense. [Cries of "that is right" followed by slogans "God is the Greatest," "Death to America," "Death to Israel," "Death to the hypocrites"] We agree with your slogan that our nation is brave and supports the line of the leader.

The world, in connection with this revolution and these people—when I say the world, I mainly mean the imperialist news and propaganda circles—the masses of people use their own judgements—they are in a puzzled state; their perpetual analyses face a move that ruins all their analysis and proves them wrong. That has taken place many times in our history. Before the demise of his eminence the imam of the ummah, world political and news circles used to say that the revolution is dependent on the person of his eminence the imam and that the people are on the scenes only for the presence of his eminence the imam. All hopes were put on the time when his eminence the imam would depart. Then things were to turn out otherwise and new issues would take place. A great deal of what they wanted to do, they left for the time when his eminence the imam departed. All right—that tragedy happened and his eminence the imam was taken away from our revolutionary people and ascended to the highest heaven. What happened following his demise, ruined all their analyses, programs, and pre-planned intentions. We heard—I do not know if it was so—that many exiled counterrevolutionaries, since they heard that the imam was ill and that there were rumors that he could not be treated further—were preparing their return to Iran. They were so very optimistic. They gave interviews and delivered remarks showing that it was so and that what we had heard was right up to a point. But the people entered the scenes that day mourning the imam's death and the election of the leader took place in such a manner that foiled all enemy conspiracies and changed their calculations for a time.

That is, in any case the enemies are not planning to remain idle and depart from their enmity toward this revolution. Therefore they began a new thing. They fed people with the analysis that people [Iranian people] were hot at that time and that the shock of the demise of his eminence the imam had brought them to the scenes. [passage omitted]

This year's marches were a test. Those discussions do not exist any more, the imam is not present, a relatively long time has passed since the imam's demise and any kind of judgement which was to take place in the people's mind did [take place]. In conditions after the war...[sentence unfinished] For a time they were saying that it was the war keeping people on the scenes. [passage omitted] The officials in charge of the marches called them marches for renewal of covenant with the imam [Khomeyni] and allegiance ot the leader [Khamene'i]. The second point-...the renewal of covenant with the imam has happened in that period and no one denies it. Even our extremely wicked and unfair enemies accept that our nation held close bonds with the imam. About the leadership, they wanted to create doubts. That was the new title. Since the election of our new dear leader such a pledge of allegiance with such a massive presence had not been asked of the people. The people have expressed their allegiance on various occasions and in various situations, but such a thing had not taken place so far. That was the first time. The people therefore wanted to announce their decision. They wanted to announce their votes. We know that the weather conditions were not very good. In some areas people took part with their umbrellas. In Tehran, we know that following three bad days people of Tehran usually make a trip and a lot of them go away, with rainfall and streets full of snow, mud, and water and so on. Those marches were extremely expressive. The reality of the thought and the path, choice and the vote of our nation was reflected in those marches. It happened in he past that the leader would say that it was a religious duty for the people to come on the scene and saw their participation. This time not even that was said, this time no one said that it was a religious duty for people to attend. The media said in discussions and in their announcements that people should participate, but they said that people should attend to tell the truth.

Looking at the people's maneuvers, their massive presence on the scenes in Tehran, in provinces, and in villages, if our enemies were to show one little bit of fairness, and if they have any wisdom, from now on they should not say that the people of Iran do not support the revolution. They should accept that the decisive majority of our nation sincerely support the revolution. [crowd chants support] And on the basis of this or that little incident here or there they should not deduce that people have lost heart and are not interested in the revolution. The by-elections in Tehran for example: It has always been that way; when it is a case of by-elections, people do not participate to the same extent as in general elections. That has always been the case. It has been like that from the start of the revolution until now.

In Tehran, usually 600,000 to 700,000 participate; and that number took part this year as well. We saw, however, how they embarked on their analyses; foreign media and even our own domestic liberals, saying: people have lost heart; instead of several million, five or six hundred thousand have taken part in the elections. That sort of thing, that sort of misrepresentation, deduction, and deliberation and so on, should not have any effect. Let me say right here, of course they will not stop. From now on, whenever there is the slightest weakness of a single person, they will say that the people are like that now.

You, however, have completed your trials; you gladdened the imam's heart and inspired his trust: you warned the hearts of officials and made them more hopeful. Of course, we were always confident and hopeful, but, well, at every stage, one feels differently. And, God willing, God will be forever pleased with you people.

However, as to why they behave that way toward us—why is that? What is the secret? If such an incident occurred in another country, they would not behave that way. Western media did not even broadcast the news of the demonstrations very well. Even those who mentioned it said, for example, one million marched in Tehran. Of course, the one million which they admitted is itself an unprecedented number. In other words, you would never be able to form a one million-strong demonstration anywhere in the world; A hundred thousand, fifty thousand, two hundred thousand, four hundred thousand. For them to say one million yet again—just that one million is an unprecedented figure. And when they make the calculations for the entire country, they may say 20 million. What they said was already an admission, but they spoke of it very briefly and in very weak terms.

The secret behind the matter is this: With their entire being, they—the ones I am speaking about are the arrogants of the world, I am not talking about ordinary epople, ordinary governments, countries: I am talking about the one who have claims to ruling and leading the entire world: the ones who are not satisfied with their own share; those are the ones I am talking about—they oppose, with their entire being, the idea that Islam should be considered and accepted as a system governing society.

A great deal has been done during the past two, three centuries to deny Islam the possibility of that position. They have really worked hard. If one day someone collects information on the efforts which global blasphemy has made in order to deny Islam its position as a comprehensive political school of thought for governing society, you will see how much there is. You would be able to fill a library with the things on which they have worked: on films, writings, newspapers, books, poems, literature. They have worked on that wherever they have been able to. And their minds were nearly put at rest; that is, in recent years, they had become certain that Islam would not be considered a ruling system in the world. They had even seriously weakened the morale of Muslims themselves.

We could see Islamic revolutions, Islamic movements in this or that corner of the world: in Egypt, in Palestine, in Lebanon, in other Arab countries; in Iran. There were many Islamic movements, on a small scale; in India, in Pakistan, Indonesia, everywhere. However, because they always assumed that the people would not gather round a flag in the name of Islamic government, they would give themselves some [other] name: a democratic movement of some kind, for example, a workers' movement, an ethnic nationalism, a movement for independence. Even if they used the name of Islam, they would do so with that suffix.

Even when we ourselves were victorious here, our domestic intellectuals, the type who had not understood the imam and the substance of the revolution—they were strugglers themselves, had gone to prison, had really fought—even they did not accept that we should speak of the rule of Islam. Let us add some kind of term to that, they would say, so that it is universally acceptable, attractive to young people, attractive to revolutionaries.

That had nearly turned into a general belief in the world, even among Muslims, such that we were embarrased—when I say we, I do not mean we, the religous students, but rather our so-called Muslim intellectuals were embarassed to raise something by the name of Islamic government. When an Islamic government was mentioned, the mind turned to the kind of government which exists in Saudi Arabia, as it was then and is now; or else to former times such as in the Ottoman caliphate or such places; that was the mental image.

This revolution—and in all fairness the imam's role was very effective in that respect; as well as the imam's students and followers—this revolution created something in the world which is not to the liking of the rulers of the world. If a revolution occurs today in another country—as is the case, in Romania, in other places—they do not mind; even if they do mind, they do not confront it in that way, to the extent that they have confronted us and in the way that they enter the arena against us. They have not confronted any revolution in that way; even communist revolutions which occurred in the past. The way in which the world of arrogance confronted us and the amount which it invested to crush this revolution—it has not invested that much anywhere else.

It is a very profound matter; that is, the debate is over this: The rule of God, which we currently consider to be crystallized in Islam, and Islam which relies on over one billion developing individuals in the world and on about fifty countries in which Muslims form a majority, is being seriously considered in the world; a matter over which their minds were at rest and a matter about which they were saying: We have removed religion from the basis of society; and they had made religion into a personal relationship between an individual and God, a love for God; and every person had a particular relationship with God which had no bearing on social life, on economics, on culture, on education, on industry, on political relations; everyone for himself and with his own God. That is the sort of thing they had made of religion.

Now they suddenly see that things have changed. Their problem is that a successful model of this kind is transpiring in the world. There were Islamic movements in that past and they still exist in many other countries of the world; what is important is a successful model. They were saying that Islam, commands which were issued 1,400 years ago, cannot run the economy of the atomic age; the age of space, rockets, the atomic age does not suit commands of 1,400 years ago. And that idea very easily finds a place in the mind of a young person. Yes, of course, in that time, in the Arabian peninsula where there was not even a school, a factory, or even a farm, there were laws of a certain kind. Today, in a world in which the four or five billion people have become like a single household, it is not possible to make laws like those laws; it is very easy to say that we should be saying something new now. They had misled everyone in that way. If a system based on Islam comes into existence and if it is able to compile the commands of Islam in line with current conditions and present them to the people as laws, that is a development which is much greater than an ordinary revolution in a country; that is what happened in Iran. The day when there was a revolution here, on the first day of the revolution, our intellectuals, even, as I said, our Muslims, said: You will not be able to have Islamic Consultative Assembly, they would say openly, do not give it the name of Islam; we cannot make all laws Islamic here. That was one of the everyday things they used to tell us.

When the Council of Guardians was being discussed, they said, that was already considered in the constitutional period [1906 Constitution] and was defeated; they said we saw that it is not possible; after all, the society is changing and a new matter arises every day; it is not possible to rely on Islam alone. However, as time went by, it gradually became clear that the theological reasoning [ijtihad] which exists in Islam, especially in Shiism, with its extensive scope, is very effective and Islamic jurisprudence [fiqh] has the full capacity for governing society in circumstances such as those which exist today. And, with the counsels of the imam, primary and secondary commands, theological reasoning and with the matters which were raised during this period and solved, there is no doubt in our minds that Islam can—and it is the best in the world today for governing a society—and it can be raised in the entire world [as heard].

That is something which global arrogance and global blasphemy want to prevent. It is not for nothing that they have mobilized all their forces behind the Iraqi Ba'th Party which they do not even like; many of them were not well-disposed toward Iraq before the war, but when they saw that Iraq is fighting Islam, they said they must support it.

They fight us with various insults and ploys, and a range of propaganda, to give this system a bad name. In a place where the people are like this: This is the Friday prayers, which our people will see on television, in the streets here around the university, something in which the people have been participating for 11 years in rain, sunshine, and snow; and those were the marches. Those were the people rushing to defend the fronts; those were the people supporting for their combatants and all the other things which they have seen. In such a place—and that is our Majles which has an open tribune, the entire world can listen to activities in the Majles. [sentence as heard]

These unjust, unfair individuals sometimes describe such a society with all the free debates that take place in the Majles as an oppressed and unfree society. A society like Saudi Arabia which has no laws, no Majles, no accountability, a group of kings and princes do whatever they like to their society, to them [enemies of the revolution] that country becomes a desirable and rational country, and this country becomes an irrational country, even in view of freedom and democracy. It is clear that one should be very hostile that he becomes so blind and deaf and does not see—if they really do not see—or they should lack any fairness that they make such a judgment.

They engage in the worst form of training terrorists, but if a Muslim causes an incident in one corner of the world—a wronged Muslim who has defended his right in Palestine or Lebanon or elsewhere—they accuse the Islamic Republic of supporting the terrorists. The groups which are in Lebanon—the phalangists have taken our children hostage, and they have been kept as hostages there for eight or seven years—that does not matter [to Iran's enemies]. However, if this is done by the Hizballah or by other Muslims who are not Hizballahis, they describe them as those who are supported by Iran or those who support Iran. However, they do not refer to the hostage taking of Phalangists who enjoy U.S. support. They make similar judgements on many other issues but I do not wish to get into details. Their approach toward this system is entirely hostile, so that it is not safeguarded, so that it is defeated. The issue came to such a point that, finally, the Americans realized that they could do nothing else but to officially join the war against us. They entered the war in reality. They came and attacked our ships. They came and attacked our oil terminals. They came and bombed our territory; because they realized that without this intervention they could not force our upper hand down. This is how they deal with us, and you know yourselves about the sanctions and other issues.

As an example, I wish to say that the book "The Satanic Verses"—it is the anniversary of the issuing of the view of his eminence the Imam—is a good example of those blind, illogical, and hostile moves. I make two or three points so that you can see how wronged we are in this issue and how the world—the arrogant world—is dealing with this matter by trying to take the upper hand.

First of all, the very act of the writing of such a book with its peculiarity and the peculiarity of its publication is part of the same trend. Many books have been written against Islam. We are not afraid of one book, or two books, or a hundred books. There are many books written which have even denied God; they have denied spirituality and the afterlife. There is no shortage of books. Go to our libraries and see how many blasphemous books, books against Islam, the Koran and against God you can find. Even if you look in our own private libraries you will find many such books. In fact, an aware Muslim is not frightened of books, of books which raise an issue, whether true or false. This is nothing. It is, in fact, a teaching of Islam: Call the people to the path of your Lord with good wisdom and advice and argue with them with that which is the best. [Koranic verse] Our approach should be based on logic. This has been one of the sources of pride for Islam from the beginning up till now.

This book was not an ordinary book, the likes of which are published daily in the world. They prepared this book in advance. They prepared its translations in various countries in advance, and such a worthless book at that. I have not met anyone who has read this book and says there is anything worthwhile in it. Even our counterrevolutionaries abroad who have read this book, they are quoted as saying that there is nothing in this book. There is nothing in this book, that someone may be afraid of its logic or that the issue of freedom of expression may be at stake.

The issue was that this was the beginning of a crusade that they wanted to start through the issue of freedom of expression—and they knew where this would lead. They wished to start something like that. This was not an ordinary book which had been published by a publisher and was later translated. Simultaneously its translation was ready in a number of countries so that they could publish them at the same time, and such a worthless book at that. Secondly, the logic of the book was not a logic based on proofs. It is a book which contained an offensive and rude attack on Islam and insults regarding Islamic sanctities, and this was the point which forced the imam to show a reaction to this on the basis of an Islamic edict. This is different from someone who argues and says he does not believe in the noble prophet. Even now they are writing such books. This was the logic used by the disciples of His Holiness Noah when the polytheists said: Should we follow you when only a bunch of riff-raff and rabble are following you? They referred to the believers, the disciples, and the apostles as riff-raff and rabble. This is what he [Rushdie] has done. He has portrayed the Islamic personalities around the Prophet, the Prophet himself, and the family of the Prophet as a group of riff-raff, rabble, and undignified and very base individuals, while using a very poisonous tone. This is his approach.

This is very different from someone who sits and discusses and argues with someone. The Koran instructs the Muslims not to insult the idols of the idol-worshippers. This is the logic of the Koran: Do not curse those who call on those apart from God, for they may in return curse God unknowingly. [Koranic verse] There is a difference in Islamic verdicts regarding an offensive and rude person and a person who raises the issue through the pen, through politeness, and through discussion. Islam is against curses and insults and when the imam issued his view that was an Islamic expert opinion.

This is the second issue. If today a lawyer on the basis of a legal analysis said that such and such a person who has committed such an offense in such and such a country is sentenced to death on the basis of laws, should that lead to so much sensationalism? This is what the imam did. The imam expressed the Islamic view, something which existed in other books, and books in the world were full of such verdicts. The imam said that the verdict regarding someone who deals in this way toward the sanctities, toward Islam and the Koran, is execution. he was an expert, but even a lowly preacher [mas'alehgu] could have said the same thing. Whether he [Rushdie] is an Iranian subject, and Indian subject, or a British subject, Khomeyni merely mentioned God's verdict regarding him. Westerners started the sensationalism. Why is it that after announcing an expert view all the foreign ministers of all the arrogant countries in the European Community get together and adopt a political stance toward Iran? Should one deal this way toward an expert opinion? You [the West] could have also asked one of your experts—if you have any—to analyse the situation and say that the view which has been expressed by the imam is not an Islamic decree. If it was an Islamic verdict the imam was entitled to express, because it was his responsibility. [chants of "God is great," other slogans]

Look here, I wish to say that this tumult which has been created, the course of this tumult is there. In other words, they wish to accuse Islam and our revolution as a movement which is against freedom, against freedom of expression, against the person. This is why they have brought about such a tumult. If they act in a fair manner, if they deal with the matter as a wise and well-meaning person would, the entire issue ends in this: that an expert on Islamic jurisprudence has announced to the people God's verdict as he understood it. Now let us imagine that this verdict is not unanimous, that a number of Muslim jurisprudents from other sects may say, no, Rushdie should be tried; and others may say that the verdict should be different. The fact that one expert has expressed his view about an issue, should this cause so much sensationalism in the world, should it lead to so many sanctions, should it lead to the tumult which they have created? It is clear that it is they who are fanning the flames of the issue. They are discharging their hostility toward us through this issue. This can manifest itself in different forms. At each point, they can find an excuse for this.

Later, they noticed that many of those who are Sunnis who may not accept our views in issues of jurisprudence, even they have endorsed us. This is a world issue. They are confronting the Islamic world. They are confronting all the Muslims. It seems that we should be careful. So long as we are defending Islam as a government—if we only raise the issue of Islam as a moral issue and as a personal relationship between us and God and if we even mobilize all the capabilities of the world, world arrogance will leave us alone—but if we raise it in the form of a government, especially when they see that our thoughts have gone beyond the borders of Iran... [sentence incomplete as heard] Now they feel that Iran has succeeded in conveying the message of Islam, in the form of a message that Islam is capable of implementation, capable of realization, and that the Islamic system is capable of being implemented in the world today. Iran has conveyed this message by means of a government which during 11 years smashed the greatest conspiracies and succeeded in emerging victorious and healthy and successful from all the onslaughts; They wish to take away this message from us.

They wish to prevent the ears of the Muslims of the world from becoming familiar with such an inspiring message which in diffeent parts of the world might become a source of irritation for colonialism, arrogance, and monopolies. Therefore, they are confronting us not due to the imam personally, not due to us, not due to every one of you, but due to Islam. We also derive our strength from Islam, we derive our identity from Islam, and we are also prepared to offer to God whatever we have in the path of God and Islam. [shouts of "God is great" and other slogans]

I hope that with these explanations, in case some of our youths or some naive persons might have been influenced by certain indoctrinations and think that such a book did not require all this fuss, they have now understood what the main issue was, and how the West had made so much investment, and why the imam yelled at them in this way, and why the Islamic ummah throughout the world is so sensitive over this issue, especially our revolutionary forces. With the explanations that I have provided, the issue becomes clearer. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

President Reiterates 'Principled Stand' on Kashmir

BK1702162590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, reiterated Pakistan's principled stand on Kashmir. Talking to newsmen on arrival at Sibi Airport today, he said though the Kashmir issue is critical, yet there is no need to worry about it.

Regarding law and order in Sind, the president said the government is working in accordance with the proposals given by him.

Two delegations comprising Baluchistan assembly speaker, and provincial ministers and senators and MNA's [members of National Assembly] from Baluchistan had separate meetings with the president in Sibi.

Delegations of agriculturists and minorities also called on the president.

Kashmir Front Leader Rejects Indian Allegations

BK1602155190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Amanullah Khan, chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, has stressed the need to mobilize world public opinion in support of the Kashmiri people's struggle for independence.

Addressing a news conference in Muzaffarabad today, he rejected the Indian allegations of Pakistan's involvement in the ongoing struggle in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to Amanullah Khan, 699 people were martyred and 1,675 injured in Srinagar and Baramula districts over the last two months.

Special Envoy Goes to Moscow From Beijing

BK1802091290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Iqbal Akhund, the prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs, has now gone to Moscow as a special emissary of Benazir Bhutto after concluding a two-day visit to China. During his stay in Beijing, he apprised the Chinese leadership of the current situation in occupied Kashmir and handed Benazir Bhutto's letter to the Chinese prime minister. Iqbal Akhund will also visit Washington, New York, and Ottawa.

Meets With Shevardnadze

BK2002061590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The special envoy of the Prime Minister, Mr. Iqbal Akhund, has had an exchange of views on some international and regional problems with the Soviet foreign minister, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, in Moscow. They also discussed the prospects for development of relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union. Mr. Akhund handed over a message of Ms. Benazir Bhutto for President Gorbachev. The Pakistani envoy apprised the Soviet foreign minister of Pakistan's relations with India, the tense situation in occupied Kashmir, and Pakistan's position on the matter.

Mr. Shevardnadze expressed the confidence that both Pakistani and Indian leaders by joint efforts will find a way out of the situation. He also sought Pakistan's assistance in bringing about the release of Soviet prisoners of war in Afghanistan. The two sides noted with satisfaction that the main tendency in international affairs is the [word indistinct] of the policy of confrontation and the establishment of mutual understanding and constructive dialogue.

Envoy Leaves for Egypt on Kashmir Mission

BK1902105690 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The federal minister for religious affairs, Khan Bahadur Khan, left Karachi for Egypt this morning as special envoy of the prime minister. Before his departure, he told a news conference that he was carrying a message from Ms. Benazir Bhutto for President Husni Mubarak. His mission is part of diplomatic efforts of the Pakistan Government to apprise the leaders of various countries of the current situation in occupied Kashmir. The minister for religious affairs said he would put across Pakistan's point of view on the issue in support of the just cause of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

France's Mitterrand Begins 4-Day State Visit

BK1902153390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Excerpts] French President Mitterrand was given a very warm welcome on his arrival in Islamabad a short while ago as he began a four-day state visit to Pakistan. He is accompanied by Madame Mitterrand and a high-level delegation that includes the foreign minister and the defense minister. President Mitterrand is the first French head of state to visit Pakistan.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto welcomed the distinguished guests at the airport. Senate Chairman Mr. Wasim Sajjad, National Assembly Speaker Mr. Meraj Khalid, federal ministers, ministers of state, members of Parliament, three Armed Services chiefs, and diplomatic representatives were also present at the airport to welcome him. A 21-gun salute was given to the French president as he alighted from the plane. The national anthems of the two countries were played and a smartly turned-out contingent of the three services presented a salute. President Mitterrand then inspected the guard of honor. [passage omitted]

President Mitterrand tonight is meeting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who will host a banquet in honor of the distinguished guest. President Mitterrand will hold talks with the prime minister tomorrow morning and later address the National Assembly.

Addresses Dinner Banquet

BK2002043890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] French President Mitterrand and Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan have stressed the need for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue. Speaking at a dinner in his honor hosted by the Pakistani president at the presidential house in Islamabad last night, President Mitterrand said that Pakistan and India are close friends of France and wished for both countries to gain control over tension on the Kashmir issue. He said: I am glad both countries have been keeping open the channels of communication between them. Otherwise, the situation would be serious. Referring to the Simla agreement's significance, he said it would not be good if its spirit were questioned.

On Afghanistan, President Mitterrand reaffirmed his country's determination to respect an independent, nonaligned Afghanistan and to support efforts for the establishment of a representative government comprising the various sections of Afghan society. He lauded Pakistan's role in hosting what he called the largest number of refugees in the world. He said France will help in this regard through nongovernmental and multinational organizations. He reiterated support for the UN program for reconstruction and rehabilitation in Afghanistan.

Expressing satisfaction with the existing good bilateral relations between Pakistan and France, President Mitterrand said cooperation between the two countries in the fields of economics, technology, and culture should be improved. Referring to the two countries' close identity of views on various international affairs, the French president lauded Pakistan's roles in the United Nations, Nonaligned Movement, Islamic Conference Organization, and Commonwealth. He very much appreciated Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's role in the restoration of democracy in Pakistan.

In his speech, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said the international community is duty-bound to pressure India into fulfilling its obligations, desisting from the use of force in occupied Kashmir, and fulfilling its pledges without resorting to intimidation and threats. He said that Pakistan is steadfast in its pledges under UN resolutions and the Simla agreement, and that it believes India will reciprocate for a just settlement of the Kashmir dispute through peaceful means. He said in clear-cut terms that Pakistan is a peace-loving country and desires peace with India, as with all other neighboring countries. The president said that the people of occupied Kashmir have resumed their struggle for the right of self-determination and have drawn the world's attention to their problem. India and Pakistan have pledged support for their right to self-determination, and this has been agreed on in UN Security Council resolutions. Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that the Kashmiri people themselves are undertaking the struggle in occupied Kashmir and therefore, outside intervention should not be blamed in fictitious, baseless allegations.

Referring to the Afghan issue, he thanked France for opposing, in principle, foreign military intervention in Afghanistan. The president said that even now Afghan refugees are the largest group among the world's homeless people and the international community can prove helpful by creating an atmosphere conducive to their return home with dignity and honor.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that relations between Pakistan and France are close and cordial and much more can be done to further promote them. Pakistan likes the participation of French companies in joint projects, especially those concerning technology transfer.

Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto, the Senate chairman, the National Assembly speaker, federal ministers, members of Parliament, the chief justice of Pakistan, and senor civil and military officials attended the dinner.

Earlier, President Mitterrand met with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. Later, at a simple function, the two leaders exchanged awards. President Mitterrand conferred the highest French award, the (Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor), on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The Pakistani president conferred Nishan-i-Pakistan on the French president.

President Mitterrand will hold talks with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad this morning. Later he will address the National Assembly.

Talks on Nuclear Technology Held

BK2002131490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1255 GMT 20 Feb 90

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 20 (AFP)—The French and Pakistani Governments are locked in "serious" discussion over whether Paris should allow the transfer of nuclear technology to Islamabad, officials said here Tuesday [20 February].

"It's a serious question which must be discussed seriously. That's what we're doing now," said Hubert Vedrine, spokesman for French President Francois Mitterrand.

Talks center on whether France should provide Islamabad with the nuclear power plant it so badly needs to deal with a severe energy crisis. Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, whose democratically-elected government is only 15 months old, has staked her political prestige on the issue.

Mr. Vedrine, who pointed out that nuclear technology was the central but not the only issue to be discussed, said Mr. Mitterrand sought to give a new boost to cooperation between the two countries.

The two meanwhile have reportedly still not reconciled differences that emerged in 1978 when France interrupted work on a nuclear waste reprocessing plant here.

Washington, fearing the technology could be used for military ends, pressured France into making the unilateral decision, Pakistani sources here said.

Informed sources said the two sides are poles apart on settling the issue, which had serious financial implications.

It has been referred to French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and his Pakistani counterpart Sahabzada Yaqub Khan so that they can clear the way for discussions on the nuclear power plant, they said.

A settlement on the transfer of nuclear technology to Pakistan would decide the future course of relations between Paris and Islamabad, newspapers here said.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has already assured that Pakistan was ready to offer international safeguards for the nuclear power plant and sources here believe construction of a plant is a financial rather than a military problem.

Pakistan meanwhile insists on payment of a "huge sum" as compensation for France's failure to honour the contract on the reprocessing plant. It also expects France to supply a power plant in its place, sources said.

But France, apparently ready for a fresh deal, wants to keep the issues separate, the sources said.

President Mitterrand, who flew in here late Monday to a warm welcome, had an exclusive 45-minute meeting with Ms. Bhutto. After the first informal session, the two foreign ministers and their aides also joined.

The two sides did not reveal the contents of the talks and Ms. Bhutto told waiting journalists that "everything will be told at a press conference" the two leaders are to address late Wednesday.

Besides bilateral relations, the two sides exchanged views on developments in Eastern Europe, trouble in the Indian-held Kashmir claimed by Pakistan and the situation in Afghanistan, informed sources said.

On Kashmir, France has expressed the desire that the two subcontinent neighbours should resolve the issue peacefully through negotiations.

Pakistan wants the West to press India into granting the Kashmiris' right to self-determination under the aegis of the United Nations. But France, having trade and industrial relations with India, has not taken a stand on the issue.

On Afghanistan, France explained its decision to reactivate its dormant mission in Kabul following the withdrawal of the Soviet troops in February 1989.

Pakistan opposed the move on grounds that it would affect the Pakistan-backed resistance's efforts "to remove the remnants of the intervention."

But informed sources said France has delayed dispatching its skeleton staff to Kabul to avoid embarrassing Pakistan.

The French president, who also addressed the National Assembly (lower house of parliament), assured his country's support for Pakistan's economic development.

"You can count on France's support in the efforts to modernize Pakistan," he told the deputies.

In a 20-minute address punctuated by the thumping of desks, he traced the country's history and quoted the national poet Mohammad Iqbal.

He welcomed the democratic evolution in Pakistan but also implicitly warned against political instability in Pakistan.

Mr. Mitterrand said "no one is ever safe" from "ambitions hostile to liberty."

He praised Pakistan's "democratic evolution" but said democracy did not come easily and added that the "struggle for democracy and development" demanded constant "vigilance" from the representatives of the people.

PRC Defense Minister Arrives for 9-Day Visit

BK2002031090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Chinese Defense Minister General Qin Jiwei arrived in Islamabad yesterday evening on a nine-day visit to Pakistan. Speaking to newsmen at the airport, he said that the purpose of his visit is to promote cooperation and friendship between the people and armed forces of the two countries.

Meets With President Khan

BK2002084090 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said the Sino-Pakistani relations have stood political vicissitudes and the test of time in the last 40 years and have developed into a model for other countries. He was talking to the visiting state councillor and minister for national defense of China, General Qin Jiwei, at a meeting in Islamabad today.

The Chinese minister is accompanied by high-ranking officials of the Chinese Army and Foreign Office.

Comments on Kashmir Issue

BK2002155390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Chinese Defense Minister General Qin Jiwei called on Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, retired, the minister of state for defense, in Islamabad today. The two ministers discussed matters relating to bilateral cooperation in fields of defense and defense production.

Referring to the current struggle in occupied Kashmir, the Chinese minister reiterated his government's stand that the issue should be settled through negotiations in order to maintain peace and tranquillity in South Asia.